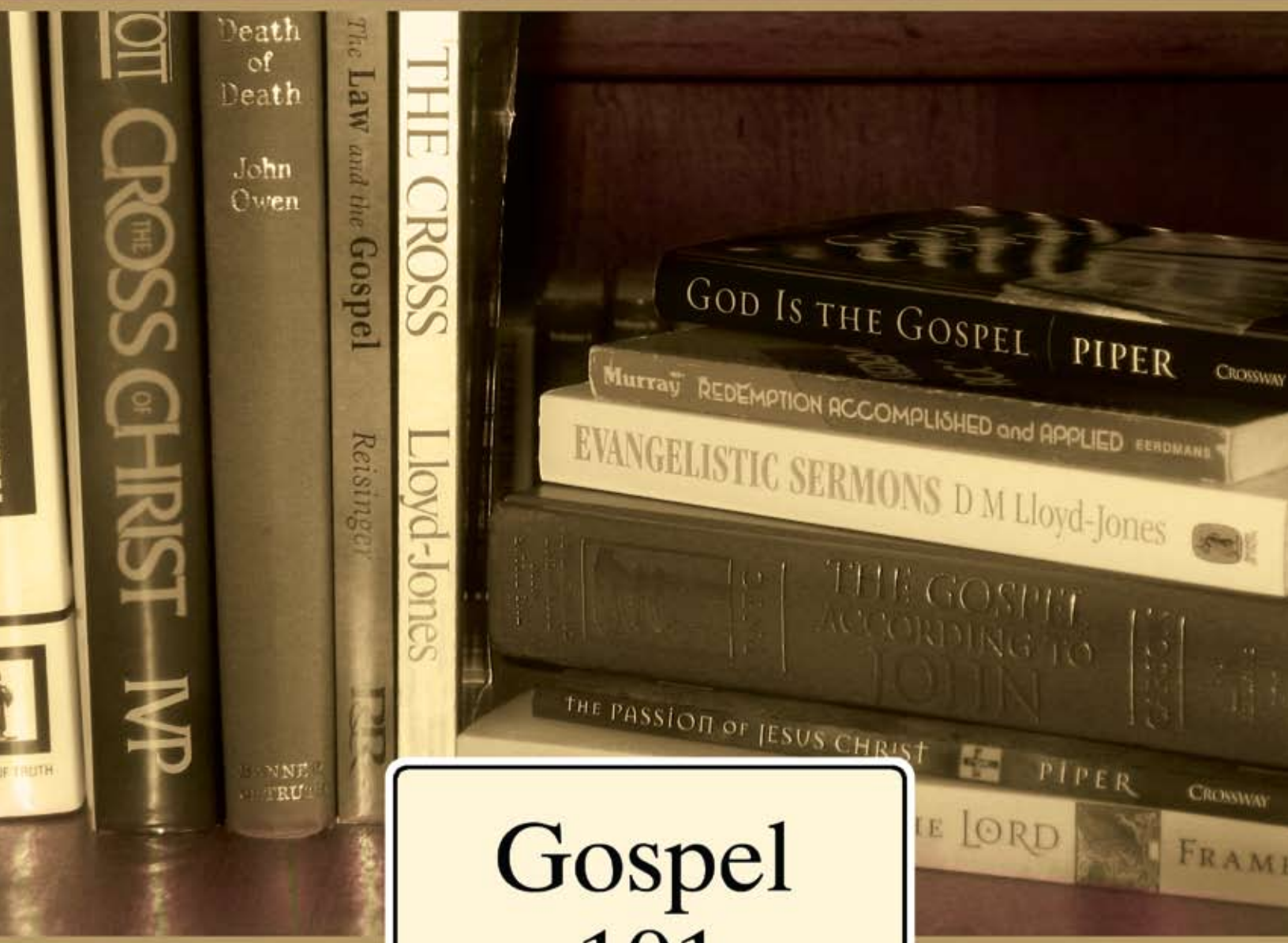




HeartCry^{Missionary Society}

THAT HIS NAME BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS



Gospel
101



My Grandmother
Mateivich



My mother
Barbara and
my sister Erika
taken during her
chemotherapy.

*"For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you,
which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your
mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well."*

- II Timothy 1:5 (NASB)

This edition of HeartCry is dedicated to my mother Barbara Washer who went home to be with her Lord on the 12th of July, 2007. My mother was born in Detroit, Michigan, to Croatian parents who had come to this country as immigrants through Ellis Island. Though Croatians are strongly Catholic, my grandmother became a believer and attended an evangelical congregation until her death.

My mother was converted in the house of a friend when she was twelve years old. The story goes that she was playing dolls, when she heard the family playing hymns on the piano downstairs. Although she was not paying much attention to the songs, the Holy Spirit rushed upon her with such conviction that she ran into an empty room and fell to the floor in tears. The parents ran upstairs and shared the Gospel with her. It was then that she took Christ as Lord and Savior.

As the years passed, my mother married and had four children. She lost her first son Doug who was struck by a car in front of the house when he was only six years old. She lost her husband and my father when she was fifty-one and never remarried. Finally, she lost her oldest daughter in a car accident in 1992. I have mentioned these things only because they were instrumental in shaping her life and in proving the faithfulness of her God. She strongly believed in the sovereignty of God, and it was this belief that sustained her. After the death of my father, my mother raised her three children alone. Until we left home for college and careers, she made sure that we were in church every Sunday.

Until my conversion at 21 years of age, I was the wildest and most destructive of the three children. I know that my sin brought great sorrow to my mother, but I always knew that she was praying for me. I would often share with her my misery, and she would always reply, "You are miserable, because I gave you to God before you were born, and you will remain miserable until you follow Him!" I remember calling her from the University of Texas on the

day that I was converted. She simply said, "I have always told you that you belonged to God. Now you must do whatever He tells you, and I will help you anyway I can." During my years in Peru, my mother knew of the danger and trials, but she never asked me to come home. On the contrary, she would have been disappointed and even angry if I had not held my ground, or as she used to say, if I had not "stood for the Lord".

Standing for the Lord was never a problem for my mother. She was one of the boldest and most fearless witnesses I have ever known. She witnessed to everyone, although I must admit that sometimes she was as relentless as a pit bull and as reckless as a bull in a china shop. As she would say, she was not afraid to tell you where you were going if you rejected Jesus! Many years ago, I preached in tears to a church about the need on the mission field. After I finished, the pastor stood up and said that I was emotionally distraught and needed counseling. Afterwards, he made the mistake of unknowingly introducing himself to my mother. After he shook her hand, she said to him, "That emotionally distraught boy is my son. He told the truth tonight. If you and your church were not so dead, you would have recognized it!"

The one thing I most appreciated about my mother was that she scoffed at any form of self-righteousness and viewed salvation as a work of grace from beginning to end. Before she died, she instructed me to preach the Gospel at her funeral and to make it clear that she was not in heaven because she was a good wife, or a good mother, or a good woman. She was in heaven because God saves sinners and Jesus Christ shed His own blood for her soul!

I have always been fearful of what might happen to HeartCry after my mother's death only because she was constantly praying for us. I honestly attribute much of what has been done in my life and in this ministry to the prayers of my mother. She was on her knees when HeartCry was only her son working alone in Peru. I only hope and pray that God might raise up others to take her place. She will be missed, but I know that she would not return for any reason under heaven. Several weeks before she died, my mother was asleep in the hospital with my sister Erika at her side. She suddenly woke up, looked at my sister, and sighed with disappointment. When my sister asked her what was wrong, she exclaimed, "I thought for sure that this time when I opened my eyes, I would see the face of my Lord, but it's only you. Nothing personal, I just want to go home and see my Lord."

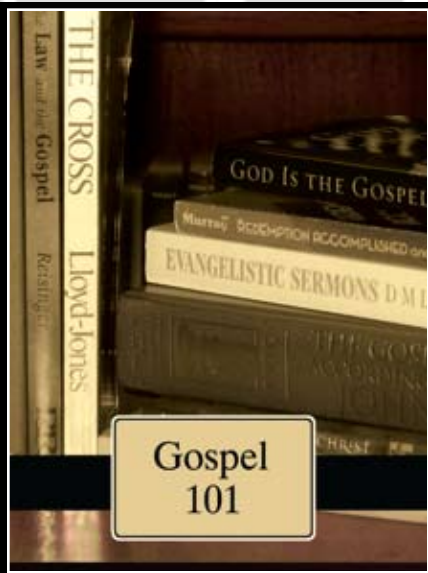
I will end this dedication with a word of thanks to my sister Erika who has given a great part of her life to care for our mother. Her faithfulness and sacrifice were a magnificent expression of Christian love. In the last few years, I have preached in several countries on three continents, and HeartCry has grown far beyond my dreams. Much of this was possible for me because of my sister's abiding ministry to my mother. Although I was there for the last three weeks of my mother's life and held her as she went home to be with the Lord, it was my sister who deserves all commendation. May God return upon her and her family the blessings she gave to my mother and me.

Your brother,
Paul David Washer

THAT HIS NAME BE GREAT AMONG THE NATIONS

HeartCry

That the earth be filled with the knowledge of the glory
of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea... (Habakkuk 2:14)



The HeartCry Missionary Society

The HeartCry Missionary Society is a nonprofit organization functioning under the authority of the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals, Alabama. Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We seek to work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples.

C O N T E N T S

FROM OUR DESK... P. 4

This edition of HeartCry focuses on the importance and specific content of the Gospel. We will consider Saint Paul's apostolic introduction to the Gospel as set before us in I Corinthians 15:1-4.

STATUS REPORT ... P. 5

A brief report on the status of our works in countries and people groups around the globe.

GOSPEL 101 ... P. 8

The Gospel is not merely an introductory message to Christianity. It is "the" message of Christianity, and it is not only the means of salvation, but also the means of continued sanctification in the life of the most mature believer.

LETTERS OF THANKSGIVING FROM EASTERN EUROPE ... P. 14

Read just a few of the many letters of gratitude we have received in this past year from Eastern Europe. We hope that they will both inform and encourage you in the work that you are accomplishing through those who went out for the sake of the Name!

NEWS FROM ASIA ... P. 23

Read about the exciting work that God is accomplishing in the 10/40 window through the personal reports of our directors and missionaries. This field is truly white unto harvest! We must step out in faith and run through the wide open door.

MISSIONARY BIOGRAPHY... P. 28

For thirty-four years, John Brainerd carried on the work of his elder and better known brother David. He exhibited the same kind of sacrifice, commitment, and zeal that his older brother had shown. How can we not remember John Brainerd?

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Who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?

From Our Desk

We count it all joy to write to you concerning the things that God has done among us these past few months. We are constantly amazed at His character and works. He is the Rock! His work is perfect and all His ways are just. He is a God of faithfulness and without injustice. Righteous and upright is He.¹ No matter which attribute we consider at any given time, we say to ourselves, “This is God’s supreme and most glorious attribute!” Then our eyes catch a glimpse of another aspect of His character and we are moved to say the same. We are like little children at play in a magnificent garden. We find the most beautiful flower and call for others to come and view our discovery, but before they reach us, we run to another and call again. Finally we collapse exhausted in the middle of absolute perfection.

How can we not serve such a God? Why would we doubt Him? If we could study every inch of the expanse of His character, if we could pass through the very core of His essence and investigate with the greatest intensity, we would not find one fault or shadow.² He is light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.³ If we could meticulously work through every word He has ever spoken and every promise He has ever made, we would find that not one of them has fallen to the ground. All His words are pure words; as silver tried in a furnace, refined seven times.⁴ If we could climb to the highest place and cause all of history to pass before us, we would be dumbfounded by the inscrutable wisdom of God and struck with awe at His absolute and indisputable sovereignty.

*Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, OR WHO BECAME HIS COUNSELOR? Or WHO HAS FIRST GIVEN TO HIM THAT IT MIGHT BE PAID BACK TO HIM AGAIN? For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever. Amen.*⁵

All that has been said thus far is especially true regarding the “glorious gospel of our blessed God”.⁶ It is the one great incomprehensible message. Through the work of the Spirit, we come to a saving knowledge of it, and yet we will spend an eternity trying to scale its heights and sound its depths. Some believe that the doctrine of the Second Coming is the deepest and most mysterious of all biblical truth. Yet we will fully understand every jot and tittle of this doctrine at the moment of His appearing. In contrast, the infinite glory of the Gospel will not be fully comprehended even after an eternity of eternities. The believer will pass through eternity in a rapturous race to track down the glories of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

It is for this reason and many more that this edition of HeartCry spotlights the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As the title indicates, we do not pretend to encompass the subject, but only to provide a brief introduction. We live in a day when the Gospel of Jesus Christ is presented as nothing more than a few spiritual laws, a series of steps to heaven, or five things God wants us to know. The Gospel has been reduced, redefined, and repackaged, but the great need of the day is for the Gospel to be rediscovered. We must return to the Scriptures and seek out the one and only message that is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.⁷ Only then, will the true church be reformed and revived.

As always, this edition of HeartCry is also filled with many encouraging testimonies and reports from the field. We hope and pray that all that is found within these pages will encourage you to love the Lord your God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength, and to enter into the work of His harvest. The harvest is truly plentiful, but the workers are few!⁸

Finally, thank you for joining with us in providing both material and spiritual support to the indigenous missionaries around the globe who have gone out for the sake of the Name. It is our desire to be fellow workers with them so that the Name of God might be great among the nations and the Lamb might receive the full reward of His suffering.⁹

¹ Deuteronomy 32:4

² James 1:17

³ I John 1:5

⁴ Psalm 12:6

⁵ Romans 11:33-36

⁶ I Timothy 1:11

⁷ Romans 1:16

⁸ Matthew 9:37

⁹ III John 1:7-8; Malachi 1:11

Your brother,

Paul David Washer

HEARTCRY STATUS REPORT



By God's grace, and through your faithful prayers and generous giving, HeartCry is working in fifteen countries on four continents around the world. It is our passion to go much further than where we are. For we long to see the day when a banner for Christ is raised in every nation and people group on the earth. The following is a brief status report and summary of our vision for each major area where we work.

UNITED STATES OFFICE

As always, we desire to give glory to God for His enduring mercy and compassion. We are overwhelmed by His kindness, knowing that we are not worthy of even the least of all His mercies toward us. This ministry is a testimony to our need and His faithfulness, our weakness and His strength, our shortsightedness and His sovereignty. We are nothing without Him, and therefore we cry out with the Psalmist:

"Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your name give glory because of Your lovingkindness, because of Your truth."¹

We long to be remembered for what we are - a weak and needy people of a great and merciful God. Let our lives be testimonies to His faithfulness.

We survived the hottest months of another Alabama summer and are looking forward to the Fall. Paul and Charo Washer are adjusting to the loss of Paul's mother, and the birth of their daughter, Rowan. Birth and death are testimonies to our mortality and our need to follow hard after Christ. Chad and Meredith Haygood were married in the month of June. Their union is a testimony to the grace of God and the mercy of Meredith! Matt and Amanda Glass are expecting their first child this month. It will be a wonderful adjustment for the young couple. Matt's identical twin, Marc, and his wife Leslie are expecting their second child. Dr. Berry and Cindy are doing well. The testimony of their marriage and family is a blessing to all of us here at HeartCry. Brother Kevin Hite has recently come alongside Dr. Berry in the administration and management of the office. If he is not careful, he will soon become indispensable! Evangelist and friend Don Currin and his family have now made the move from Georgia to Muscle Shoals. They will be a great asset to both our church and mission ministry. We are excited to see how God will use them. Finally, Jon and Gabi Green are still in England awaiting their Visa renewal. Please pray for them during this very difficult trial.

PREACHING MINISTRY

Paul Washer continues to preach in different areas of the country and abroad. He was very encouraged at the missions conference held at New Hope Baptist Church in Goode, Virginia. Pastor Don Rice and the congregation demonstrated that a heart for missions is still alive in God's people. On August 11, Paul preached at the Legacy Conference in Chicago, Illinois, and then boarded a plane for Lima, Peru. He and the HeartCry team taught in a missionary/pastor training conference in Lima and then traveled north to teach in the seminary in Sullana. In September, Paul will be in Baton Rouge, Louisiana; Asheville, North Carolina; and Kansas. Please pray.

MISSIONARY TRAINING IN ASIA

The missionary training in Manipur, India, was brought to a close during the first week of August. These June and July training sessions were the first of many to come for the Grace Himalayan - HeartCry missionaries. The mis-



¹ Psalm 115:1

HEARTCRY STATUS REPORT



sionaries have now gone back to their respective fields and will continue to labor until the next round of training begins.

Several new missionaries have joined Grace Himalayan Mission. One of them, Brother Mohon, is a graduate of Chil Chil Theological Seminary in Manipur. He will be sent to Siliguri, West Bengal, India, accompanied by HeartCry missionary Ritesh Ranah. The two men will seek to plant a church in Siliguri and begin an outreach in eastern Nepal. We are currently looking for land that might be purchased as a mission training center in that area.

In Calcutta, India, there is a brother who is overseeing the translation of *The One True God* by Paul Washer and *Justification and Regeneration* by Charles Leiter. Both books are being translated into Hindi and Bangla and will become part of the training curriculum for pastors and missionaries in South Asia.

In January 2008, Nathan Berry and Matt Glass will make another trip to India. They hope to visit all the newly established mission fields and spend time interviewing potential HeartCry missionaries. More details will follow in the next newsletter regarding the exact places they will be visiting.

JAMES DHALE WILL STAY WITH THE GRACE HIMALAYAN MISSION

In June, Brother James Dhale was called to become the pastor of the Carey Baptist Church in Calcutta, India. The church was planted by pioneer missionary William Carey. The invitation was a great honor and provided ample opportunity for ministry. Nevertheless, James Dhale has respectfully declined the position because he felt that it would hinder what the Lord had called him to do through the Grace Himalayan Mission. We rejoice in his decision. We must all be aware that men of God do not accept an invitation simply because it is a “step up”, but only because it is the will of God.

A MUCH NEEDED VEHICLE AND A NEW RAIL ROAD

James Dhale and the workers at the Grace Himalayan Mission send their thanks to our HeartCry supporters for the \$8,000 gift they received for the purchase of a 4x4 off-road vehicle. They now have almost 70% of the total amount that is needed. They intend to use the vehicle to visit missionaries and churches in mountainous areas such as Tawang, Nepal, Bhutan, and the China border. Because of your giving, Brother James promises that Nathan and Matt’s next trip to the 10/40 window will be more convenient and less costly.

It seems that India has signed an Inter-Governmental Agreement on a trans-Asia railway that proposes to connect 28 countries and pass through MANIPUR. This trans-Asia Railway Network envisages 80,900 km of railway lines, starting from Iran-Turkey to Thailand via Kunming, China. This will provide a virtual highway for the Gospel into some of the most unreached people groups in the world. Praise God!

THE ANNUAL PASTOR’S CONFERENCE IN ZAMBIA

During the printing of this magazine, Pastor Jeff Noblit and his wife Pam traveled with Dr. Voddie Baucham and renowned woman’s writer and speaker Martha Peace to the annual Reformed Baptist Conference in Lusaka, Zambia. The conference is being sponsored by brother Conrad Mbewe and the Reformed Baptist churches of Zambia and South Africa. Brother Paul has ministered in the conference for the last two years but is in Peru during this year’s conference. The conference promises to be a great encouragement. It is usually attended by several hundred pastors, missionaries, and laypersons.

TYPICAL EVANGELISM

The Grace Reformed Baptist Church in Petauke, Zambia, just completed a successful evangelistic campaign. The outreach was led by HeartCry missionary Lovemore Banda. The church was divided up into nine evangelistic teams that went door-to-door throughout the city, sharing the Gospel. After the campaign, Pastor Lovemore declared the following: “We were overwhelmed by what we saw and heard. Many people who claimed to be Christians had no knowledge of where they would spend eternity or any understanding of the basic tenets of the Gospel message.”

Although countless people were contacted, only 68 people cared to listen to the entire Gospel message, and 55 people requested further visits. Please pray for Pastor Lovemore and the congregation in Petauke as they seek to advance God’s kingdom, one soul at a time. At HeartCry, we encourage door-to-door evangelism among our missionaries. It is very hard work, and the results are rarely spectacular. Nevertheless, it is one of the best ways to plant a church and advance the kingdom of God.



ROMANIA

The ministry in Romania is advancing in spite of the various trials often experienced by Romanian Christians and churches. In the past few months, the President of Romania signed laws which limit the freedom of Evangelical Christians to share the Gospel. These laws bring to mind the great limitations that were suffered under communism and prove that we must always be ready to pay any price for the cause of Christ and the advancement of the Gospel. A few days ago, the head of the Romanian Orthodox Church passed away, and a new Patriarch will soon be elected. The Romanian Christians expect even more pressure as soon as the new leader is installed.

By God’s grace, the HeartCry missionaries continue to be faithful to the high calling of preaching the Gospel in season and out of season. Our missionaries in Ukraine, Serbia, and Moldova are reporting that God’s hand is moving. A new church is starting in Ukraine, two mission teams have been completed in Moldova, and a new church building is almost finished in Serbia. The teams from Romania are also witnessing a wonderful time of harvest. In Eastern Europe, the warm summer months are excellent opportunities for spreading the Gospel through personal one-on-one witnessing, outdoor evangelistic campaigns, and summer camps for young people. Please pray!

Gospel 101

An Apostolic Introduction

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you, unless you believed in vain. For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures,
I Corinthians 15:1-4

A writer or preacher would be hard pressed to produce a better introduction to the Gospel of Jesus Christ than that which is given here by the Apostle Paul to the church in Corinth. In these few lines, he gives us enough truth to live on for a lifetime and to bring us home to glory. Only the Holy Spirit could enable a man to write so much, so clearly, and in so little space.

A Gospel for All

Now I make known to you, brethren, the gospel...
I Corinthians 15:1

In this simple phrase, we find a truth that must be rediscovered by all of us. The Gospel is not merely an introductory message to Christianity. It is “the” message of Christianity, and it is not only the means of salvation, but also the means of continued sanctification in the life of the most mature believer.

The Apostle had already preached the Gospel to these people! He was their father in the faith!¹ Yet he sees the greatest need to continue teaching the Gospel to them, not only to remind them of its essential ingredients, but also to expand their knowledge of it. At their conversion, they merely began a journey of discovery that would encompass their entire life and carry on through the endless ages of eternity – the discovery of the glories of God revealed in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As we look through the annals of Christian history, we see men and women of unusual passion for God and His kingdom. We long to be like them, and we wonder how they came to have such enduring fire. I have studied the lives of quite a few of them, and I find one common denominator among them. They all seem to have caught a glimpse of the glory of the Gospel, and its beauty kindled their passion and drove them on. Genuine and enduring passion comes from an ever-increasing, ever-deepening understanding of what God has done for His people in the person and work of Jesus Christ!

Today, there are so many conferences and such, especially for our youth, which are designed to excite the believer’s passion through fellowship, music, eloquent speakers, emotional stories, and impassioned pleas. Yet, often whatever excitement they create quickly vanishes. In the end, little fires have been built in little hearts that burn out in a few days. We have forgotten that genuine, enduring passion is born out of one’s knowledge of the truth, and specifically the truth of the Gospel. The more one comprehends its beauty, the more one will be apprehended by its power. One glance of the Gospel will move the truly regenerate heart to follow. Every greater glimpse will quicken its pace until it is running recklessly toward the prize. Such beauty, the truly Christian heart cannot resist. This is the great need of the day! It is what we have lost—the preaching of the Gospel.

A Gospel to Be Preached

... which I preached to you,
I Corinthians 15:1

It seems that for the most part, impassioned preaching has gone out of style. It has been deemed by many to be lacking the refinement and sophistication that are necessary to be effective in this modern era. The passionate preacher proclaiming truth boldly and unapologetically is now considered an obstacle to the post-modern man who prefers a bit more humility and openness to other points of view. The majority argument is that we simply must change the way we preach because it just looks foolish to the world.

Such an attitude toward preaching is proof that we have lost our bearings in the Evangelical community. It is God who has ordained the “foolishness of preaching” to be the instrument of bringing the saving message of the Gospel to the world.² That is not to say that preaching should be foolish, illogical, or outlandish, but the standard by which all preaching should be compared is the Scripture and not the contemporary opinions of a fallen and corrupt culture that is wise in its own eyes.³

The theory is often put forth that our present culture cannot tolerate the type of preaching that was so effective during the great awakenings and revivals of the past. The preaching of George Whitefield, John Wesley, and other like-minded preachers would be ridiculed, lampooned and laughed to scorn by modern man. Yet, this theory fails to take into account that these same preachers were ridiculed and lampooned by the men of their own day! True Gospel preaching will always be “foolishness” to every culture. Any attempt to remove the offense and make preaching

“appropriate” diminishes the power of the Gospel. It also defeats the purpose for which God chose preaching as the means of saving men – so that men’s hope might not rest in refinement, eloquence, or worldly wisdom, but in the power of God.⁴

We live in a culture that is bound in sin like bands of iron. Moral stories, quaint maxims, and life lessons shared from the heart of a beloved pulpiteer have no real power against such darkness. We need preachers of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, who know the Scriptures and are enabled by the grace of God to face any culture and cry out, “Thus saith the Lord!”

A Gospel to Be Received

... which also you received,
I Corinthians 15:1

For men to be saved, the Gospel must be received. Yet, what does it mean to “receive” the Gospel? There is nothing extraordinary about the word “received” in English or biblical Greek, but in the context of the Gospel, it becomes quite extraordinary, and one of the most radical words in Scripture.

First, when two things are contrary or diametrically opposed to one another, to receive the one is to reject the other. Since there is no affinity or friendship between the Gospel and the world, to “receive” the Gospel is to “reject” the world. In this is demonstrated just how radical the act of receiving the Gospel can be. To receive and follow the Gospel call is to reject all that can be seen with the eye and held in the hand, in exchange for what cannot be seen. It is to reject personal autonomy, the right to self-government, in order to enslave oneself to a “messiah” who died two thousand years ago as an enemy of the state and a blasphemer. It is to reject the majority and its views, in order to join oneself to a berated and seemingly insignificant minority called the Church. It is to risk everything in this one and only life in the belief that this impaled prophet is the Son of God and the Savior of the world.

Secondly, for a man to “receive the Gospel” is for Him to trust exclusively in the person and work of Jesus Christ as the only way of right standing before God. It is a common maxim that to trust in anything exclusively is dangerous, or at best, a very unwise thing to do. A man is considered careless to not have a backup plan, to not have an alternative escape route, to not diversify his investments, or to put all his eggs in the same basket and burn bridges behind him. Yet, this is the very thing that is done by the man who receives Jesus Christ. The Christian faith is exclusive. To truly receive Christ is to throw off every other hope in every other thing, but Christ alone. It is for this reason that the Apostle Paul declares that the Christian is of all men most to be pitied, if Christ is a hoax.⁵ To receive the Gospel is not merely to pray a prayer asking Jesus to come into one’s heart, but it is to put away the world and embrace the fullness of the claims of Christ.

To “receive the Gospel” is to open one’s life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. This is quite different from the plea of contemporary

evangelism that directs men to “make Jesus Lord” of their lives. What we must understand is that Jesus IS the Lord of every man. The Scriptures declare that God has made Him both Lord and Christ.⁶ He has installed His King upon His holy mountain and scoffs at those who would rebel against Him.⁷ God does not call men to make Jesus Lord, but to live in absolute submission to the Lord He has made.

The man who receives the Gospel, and with it, Jesus as Lord, does a very dangerous and sensible thing. It is dangerous in a Namian⁸ sort of way. After all, He is not a tame Lion, and He is certainly not safe. He has the right to ask anything of those who call Him Lord, but He is good, and worthy of joyful trust. Those who do not understand the danger of the Gospel call have heard it only faintly. The same Jesus, who calls the weary to Himself,⁹ may also ask of them everything, and send them forth to lose their lives for His sake¹⁰ in this dark and fallen world.

To receive the Gospel and Jesus as Lord is also a sensible thing to do. What could be more reasonable than to follow the omnipotent Creator and Sustainer of the universe, who has loved His people with an eternal love, redeemed them with His own blood, and demonstrated uncompromising commitment to every promise He has made? Even if He were not this way, and all this goodness was not in Him, it would still be most sensible to follow Him for who can resist His will? It is for these reasons and countless more, the Apostle urges us “to present our bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God”, and calls it our spiritual or “reasonable service of worship”.¹¹

To “receive the Gospel” is for the world and self to be dethroned and for Christ to become our new epicenter! He becomes the source, the purpose, the goal, and the motivation of all that we are and do. When a man receives the Gospel, his

entire life begins to be lived out in a different context, and that context is Christ. Although the outward signs at the moment of true conversion may be less than dramatic, the gradual effects will be monumental. Like a pebble cast in the center of a lake, the ripple effect of the Gospel will eventually reach the full circumference of the believer’s life and touch every shore.

Finally, to “receive the Gospel” is to take it as the very source and sustenance of one’s life. Christ cannot be received as “a part” of one’s life or as an addition to all the other good things that one already possesses without Him. He is not some minor accessory that dresses up our life and makes it better. In receiving the Gospel, He becomes our life. In John 6:53, Jesus taught, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in yourselves.” In Psalm 34:8, David cries out, “O taste and see that the Lord is good.” What could make it clearer? To receive Christ into our lives is for Him to become for us not only a necessary meal that sustains us, but also an exquisite meal in which we delight.





A Gospel in Which We Stand

... in which also you stand,
I Corinthians 15:1

In our text, the Apostle Paul tells us that the Gospel is not only to be received, but it is also the truth upon which the true believer stands. In fact, standing firm on the truth of the Gospel is the evidence that one has truly received the Gospel. James teaches us that true saving faith produces works.¹² Here, the Apostle Paul teaches us that true saving faith produces conviction that governs the will and determines behavior. The one who truly receives the Gospel, stands upon it, and lives his life in accordance with its truths. In the words of Jesus Christ, the one who hears and receives the Gospel “may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock, and the rain fell, and the floods came, and the winds blew and slammed against that house; and yet it did not fall, for it had been founded on the rock”.¹³

The Apostle Paul had great reason to hope that at least some of the individuals in the Church at Corinth were true believers because they were in fact standing firm upon the truths of the Gospel. Others who identified themselves with the same Church brought great concern to Paul and thus he admonished them to test or examine themselves to see whether or not they were in the faith.¹⁴ It is one thing to make a profession of Christianity; it is quite another to validate that profession with one’s life. A man may say that he has “received the Gospel”, but the question remains, “Does he stand upon the Gospel?” The latter is the evidence of the former.

To argue that the reception of the Gospel produces real Gospel conviction is not saying that new Christians will not be immature or that mature Christians will never struggle. Even the most godly among us fight against sin and are fraught with many failures. However, in the midst of the struggle, it is evident that they possess a deep conviction that the Gospel is true, and they demonstrate a determination to stand upon it. Though at times off balanced and even falling, over the general course of their life we see them standing! They stand because God makes them stand.¹⁵ They have been regenerated by the Spirit of God and that same Spirit dwells within them. Though they battle with sin and their fallen flesh, a true conviction leading to righteousness is evident.

A Gospel by Which We Are Saved

...by which also you are saved,
I Corinthians 15:2

The greatest promise of the Gospel is salvation. Every other promise and every other benefit derived from them pales in comparison to this one thing – that the Gospel is the power of God for salvation,¹⁶ and whoever will call upon the name of the Lord will

be saved.¹⁷ According to I Peter 1:9, salvation is the very outcome or goal of the believer’s faith. It is the end or purpose behind all that Christ has done. It is the true believer’s great longing, and the end toward which he strives. God can give no greater gift and the believer can have no greater hope or motivation than that of final salvation through the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

The gift of salvation is even more greatly magnified when we realize what we were before Christ and what we deserved in that state. We were sinners by nature and deed and were corrupt to the point of depravity. We were lawbreakers and criminals without excuse or plea before the bar of God’s justice. We deserved nothing less than eternal condemnation, but now we are saved through the blood of God’s own Son. While we were helpless sinners and enemies of God, Christ died for the ungodly.¹⁸ Through Him, we who were far off have now been brought near.¹⁹ In Him, we have redemption through His blood, and the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace.²⁰

We have been saved from our sin, reconciled to God, and brought into fellowship with Him as sons! What more could we desire, or what more do we need? Is not the gift of salvation through the blood of God’s own Son enough to fill our hearts to overflowing for an eternity of eternities? Is it not enough to motivate us to live for Him who died? What need do we have of other promises? Will we live for Him more because He promises us not only salvation, but also healing, ease of life, wealth, and honor? What are any of these things compared to the gift of salvation and of knowing Him? Away with those who would seek to coax us to devotion by promising us things other than Jesus Christ. If everyone we have ever loved was taken from us, and our body lay rotting on a dung heap, and our name was slandered by friend and enemy alike, we should still find all the devotion we need to love, praise, and serve Him in this one thing – He shed His own blood for our souls. Pure and undefiled religion is fueled by this one holy passion.

Why is it that the promise of eternal salvation alone no longer seems to have as much power to attract men to Christ? Why is modern man more interested in how the Gospel can help him in this present life? First, it is because preachers are no longer preaching about the certainty of judgment and the dangers of hell. When these things are preached biblically and clearly, men begin to see that their greatest need is to be saved from eternal condemnation, and the “more practical” needs of this present age become trivial

in comparison. Secondly, we must understand that the great majority of men, on the street and in the pew, are carnal, and carnally minded men cherish this world above the next. They have little interest in the things of God and eternity.²¹ Most would sooner attend a conference on self-esteem and self-improvement than listen to one sermon on sanctification, without which no one will see the Lord.²²

Although it is true that the Gospel can and often does improve one's station and condition in life, as stewards of the Gospel, we must shun the temptation to attract hearers and congregants with any promise or prop other than Jesus Christ and eternal life. Although it would be beyond radical in this modern age of evangelism, we would do well to cry out to the masses, "Jesus Christ, promises you two things: an eternal salvation in which to hope and a cross on which to die. The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come'."

A Gospel to Be Held Fast

... if you hold fast the word which I preached to you,
unless you believed in vain.
I Corinthians 15:2

The doctrine of the "Perseverance of the Saints"²³ is one of the most precious truths to the believer who understands it. It is the greatest comfort and encouragement to know that He who began a good work in us will finish it.²⁴ However, this doctrine has been grossly perverted and has become the chief instrument of giving false assurance to countless individuals who are yet unconverted and still in their sin.

In the above text, the Apostle Paul writes, "...you are saved, IF you hold fast the word..." The word "if" introduces a conditional clause that we must not ignore and we cannot remove. A person is saved "if" he holds fast to the Gospel, but "if" he does not hold fast, he is not saved. This is not a denial of the doctrine of perseverance, but rather an explanation of it. No one who truly believes unto salvation will ever be lost to eternal destruction. The grace and power of God that saved them will also keep them until that final day, but the evidence that they have truly believed is that they continue in the things of God and do not turn away from Him. Though they will still struggle against the flesh and be subject to many failing, the full course of their life will reveal a definite and notable progress in both faith and godliness. Their perseverance does not save them or make them objects of grace, but reveals that they are objects of grace and truly saved by faith. To put it plainly, the proof or validation of genuine conversion is that the one who professes faith in Christ perseveres in that faith and grows in sanctification throughout the full course of his or her life. If a man professes faith in Christ and yet falls away, or makes no progress in godliness, it does not mean that he has lost his salvation; it simply reveals that he was never converted at all.

This truth has tremendous and far-reaching implications for many who profess faith in Christ. How many on the street and in the pew believe that they are "saved" and thoroughly "Christian" because one time they prayed a prayer and asked Jesus to come into their hearts? Their lives have never changed, they show no evidence of the grace of God, and yet they stand assured of their salvation because of one decision in their past and their belief that their prayer was truly sincere. No matter how popular such a belief, there are no biblical grounds for it.

It is true that conversion happens at a specific moment in time when men pass from death to life through faith in Jesus Christ. However, biblical assurance that a person has passed from death to life is not based merely upon an examination of the moment of conversion, but rather upon an examination of one's life from that moment on. In the midst of much carnality, the Apostle Paul did not ask the Corinthians to reevaluate their conversion experience in the past, but to examine their lives in the present.²⁵ We would do well to follow Paul's lead in the counseling of supposed converts. They must know and we must teach them that the evidence of a genuine saving work of God in the past is the continuation of that same work until that final day.

A Gospel of First Importance

...as of first importance...
I Corinthians 15:3

There is no word or truth of greater importance than the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Scriptures are full of many messages. The least among them is more valuable than the combined wealth of the world and more important than the greatest thoughts ever formed in the mind of man. If then, the very dust of Scripture is more precious than gold,²⁶ how can we calculate the worth or importance of the Gospel?

Even within the Scripture itself, the Gospel message has no equal. The story of creation, though lined with splendor, bows before the message of the cross. The Law of Moses and the words of the prophets point away from themselves to this singular message of redemption. Even the Second Coming, though full of wonder, stands in the shadows of this one word. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Gospel of Jesus Christ is the one great and essential message, the acropolis²⁷ of the Christian faith, and the foundation of the believer's hope. There is nothing more important, nothing more useful, and nothing more necessary for the promotion of the glory and kingdom of God!

This being true, it should be our magnificent obsession to comprehend the Gospel. It is an impossible task, but worth every ounce of effort spent, for all the riches of God and every true joy for the believer are found there. It is worth shutting ourselves away from every lesser endeavor and inferior pleasure so that we might sound the depths of God's grace revealed in this one message. A beautiful illustration of such a passion is found in Job 28:1-9:

Surely there is a mine for silver and a place where they refine gold. Iron is taken from the dust, and copper is smelted from rock. Man puts an end to darkness, and to the farthest limit, he searches out the rock in gloom and deep shadow. He sinks a shaft far from habitation, forgotten by the foot; they hang and swing to and fro far from men. The earth, from it comes food, and underneath it is turned up as fire. Its rocks are the source of sapphires, and its dust contains gold. The path no bird of prey knows, nor has the falcon's eye caught sight of it. The proud beasts have not trodden it, nor has the fierce lion passed over it. He puts his hand on the flint; he overturns the mountains at the base.

Even in the ancient world of Job, there were men who were willing to push themselves to the farthest limit, to deprive themselves of surface life, to burrow through solid rock in gloom and deep shadow, to risk life and limb, and to leave no stone unturned in their search for the treasures of this earth. How much more should we who have been enlightened by the Holy Spirit, and tasted the good Word of God and the powers of the age to come,²⁸ be willing to leave off the things of lesser glory to pursue the glories of God in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Why then, is a true passion for the Gospel so scarce among God's people? First, it is because the Gospel most often preached today is a terribly reduced or truncated version of the original. The Gospel of God cannot be contained in a tract, or summed up in a few spiritual laws. It is good to understand that God has a plan, that we are sinners, and that Christ died and rose again that we might be saved by faith, but it is only the beginning. It is when we search the Scriptures, and discover the meaning of these things that we realize that we are on a journey that will last beyond our lifetime and into a thousand eternities. With each new truth discovered we are more and more captured by the Glory of the Gospel until it consumes our thoughts and governs our will. This exploration into the Gospel is necessary if we are ever to be passionate about it.

A second reason for a lack of passion is that the Gospel is seen by many to be Christianity 101, or the baby step into the faith that is quickly mastered and left behind for deeper things. Nothing could be further from the truth! The Gospel is the "deep thing" of Christianity! Eschatology and the book of Revelation will be mastered at the second coming, but our pursuit of the knowledge of the Gospel will continue on throughout eternity. The greatest of Christians will never master the Gospel, but every true Christian will be mastered by it!

A Gospel Handed Down and Delivered

*For I delivered to you...what I also received.
I Corinthians 15:3*

In the above text, we learn two important truths about the Gospel - it is handed down, and it is to be delivered. When the Apostle Paul writes that he "received" the Gospel, he is making a claim to special revelation. He did not fabricate this message, nor was it borrowed from others. Rather it came to him through an extraordinary revelation of Jesus Christ. In Galatians 1:11-12, Paul describes this experience in greater detail:

For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man. For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

There is only one true Gospel. It was born in the heart of God and handed down to the church through the Apostles. These men, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, were quite clear regarding the content of their Gospel and its immutability. It was not to be changed or adapted to please the palate of differing cultures or epochs, but was to be held in the highest regard as absolute truth. We who have become recipients and stewards of this Gospel would do well to listen to their admonitions and handle the Gospel with the greatest caution, even fear. Jude exhorts us to contend earnestly for this faith which was once for all handed down to the saints.²⁹ Paul admonishes us to guard it as an entrusted treasure,³⁰ and even goes so far as to pronounce a curse upon any man or angel who would adapt the Gospel message to any preconceived notion of culture or religion:

But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!³¹

Each generation of Christians must realize that an "eternal" Gospel has been handed down to them. As stewards, it is our charge to preserve that Gospel without additions, subtractions, or any sort of modification. To alter the Gospel in any way is to damn our own souls, and to hand down a corrupt Gospel to the following generation. For this reason, the Apostle Paul warned young Timothy to take pains with the truths entrusted to him, and promised him that in doing so he would ensure salvation both for himself and for those who heard him.³²

We, who have received the Gospel, have a fearful obligation to deliver it. This obligation is not only to God, but also to our own generation and the generations to come. Although the Gospel can be corrupted in an instant, it may take the Church years, even centuries to recover it. If Church history teaches us anything, it teaches us that though heretical movements abound, there are few genuine reformations. There is something worse than holding our silence while the lost world runs headlong into hell. It is the crime of preaching to them a watered down, culturally carved, truncated Gospel that allows them to hold to a form of godliness, while denying its power,³³ to profess to know God, while denying Him with their deeds,³⁴ and to call Jesus "Lord, Lord", while not doing the Father's will.³⁵ Woe to us if we preach not the Gospel, but even greater woe if we do so incorrectly!³⁶



A Gospel to Be Explained

...that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures...

I Corinthians 15:2

The Gospel is everything in Christianity and the Scriptures,³⁷ but not everything in Christianity or the Scriptures is the Gospel. Physical healing, a sound marriage, and God's providential care, although founded upon and flowing from the Gospel, are not the Gospel. The Gospel is a very specific message in the Scriptures, and the above text sets it out for us most clearly and concisely. In these simple phrases is found the salvation of the world.

From our text, we learn that the Gospel of Jesus Christ rests upon two great pillars – His death and resurrection. The reference to his burial is important for two reasons. The first is that it was prophesied and fulfilled. The second is that it validates His death and lays the ground work for His resurrection and ascension. A thorough consideration of these two great truths are beyond the scope of this article. For now, we have only one goal, and that is to demonstrate the great need to not only proclaim these truths, but to explain them.

It is the great task of the Christian evangelist³⁸ to both proclaim as a herald and expound as a scribe. The Scriptures abound with such examples. Philip pointed the Ethiopian eunuch to Christ through his explanation of Isaiah's prophecies.³⁹ Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.⁴⁰ Paul the Apostle met with the Jews of Thessalonica for three consecutive Sabbaths and reasoned with them from the Scriptures, "explaining and giving evidence that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead."⁴¹ Finally, there is the greatest Expositor of them all, our Lord Jesus Christ, who explained God to man in His incarnation,⁴² and explained the Gospel to His bewildered disciples on the road to Emmaus.

*Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.*⁴³

We are not only called to proclaim truth, but to explain it to our hearers. We must tell them they have sinned, but we must also explain to them the evil of it and the dire consequences that follow. We must proclaim Christ's death, but we must also explain why it was necessary and what it accomplished. We must declare His resurrection and ascension, but we must also explain what they mean for our salvation and the government of the universe. We must tell them what He has done, but we must also explain to them what they must do. Proclamations and the words that form them are important, but only to the degree that they are properly defined and applied. Such is the case of the Gospel.

- 1 I Corinthians 4:15
- 2 I Corinthians 1:21
- 3 Romans 1:22
- 4 I Corinthians 1:27-30
- 5 I Corinthians 15:19
- 6 Acts 2:36
- 7 Psalm 2:4-6
- 8 A reference to *The Chronicles of Narnia* by C.S. Lewis.
- 9 Matthew 11:28
- 10 Matthew 10:16, 39
- 11 Romans 12:1
- 12 James 2:14-26
- 13 Matthew 7:24-25
- 14 II Corinthians 13:5
- 15 Romans 14:4
- 16 Romans 1:16
- 17 Romans 10:13
- 18 Romans 5:6-10
- 19 Ephesians 2:13
- 20 Ephesians 1:7
- 21 Romans 8:5
- 22 Hebrews 12:14
- 23 The doctrine of perseverance is described in the following summary taken from the *Abstract of Principles*: "Those whom God hath accepted in the Beloved, and sanctified by His Spirit, will never totally nor finally fall away from the state of grace, but shall certainly persevere to the end..."
- 24 Philippians 1:6
- 25 II Corinthians 13:5
- 26 Job 28:6
- 27 "Acropolis": From the Greek word *akro* meaning "high" and the Greek word *polis* meaning "city". It is the high point or citadel of the Christian faith, or its fortified city.
- 28 Hebrews 6:4-5
- 29 Jude 1:3
- 30 II Timothy 1:14
- 31 Galatians 1:8-9
- 32 I Timothy 4:15-16
- 33 II Timothy 3:5
- 34 Titus 1:16
- 35 Matthew 7:21
- 36 I Corinthians 9:16
- 37 In the sense that it's the great essential truth of Christianity and the Scriptures.
- 38 The term is being used loosely in reference to any Christian who is preaching or sharing the Gospel.
- 39 Acts 8:26-35
- 40 Acts 18:26
- 41 Acts 17:1-3
- 42 John 1:18 - The word "explained" is translated from the Greek word *exegéomai* which means to draw out or unfold a teaching or truth.
- 43 Luke 24:27 - The word "explained" is translated from the Greek word *diermeneúo* which means to unfold the meaning of something, explain, or expound.



Letters of Thanksgiving

From Eastern Europe

There is no way to describe the gratitude of our indigenous missionaries toward those of you who care for their families and make their ministries possible through your prayers and financial support. The following are just a few of the many letters we have received in this past year from Eastern Europe. We hope that they will both inform and encourage you in the work that you are accomplishing through those who went out for the sake of the Name!

Alex and Simona Palade



Alex and Simona are two of our dearest and most dedicated missionaries in the country of Romania. Their sincere devotion to the Lord and desire for lost souls are unsurpassed. We count it a great privilege to be part of their lives and ministry.

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ. Our heart is so thankful to God because He has saved us in so many ways. My wife and I were on the verge of divorce when Christ came into our lives, and not only saved our souls, but also our family. Since that moment, He has been with us through persecution, physical trials, and times of blessing. God has been faithful to keep us strong enough to stand in Christ, and has demonstrated His faithfulness to every promise He has ever made. He chose us before the foundation of the world, saved us, and called us with a holy calling - to minister among the college students of Romania. He has been faithful and gracious to use us in the colleges in Suceava, Piatra Neamt, Bacau, Targu Mures, Sibiu, Valcea, Ploiesti, and Slatina.

Simona and I know that God has a plan for us because we are His children and workers, but we especially see God's provi-

dence in meeting the men from HeartCry. Through the teaching of Brother Washer and the other men who travel to Romania through HeartCry, God has crushed our lives and rebuilt them. The teachings on the sovereignty of God have proved to us that we can trust Him and that the burdens of the world do not rest upon our shoulders. The teachings on the grace and power of God have given us great peace (It is hard to believe that at one time I passionately taught that a person could lose their salvation). The teachings on the family have been a special blessing to us. I now know that my priority is to love my wife and take care of her.

I could not understand these things before, therefore I feel a deep thankfulness in my heart for the teachings I have received. I do not have words to express my joy, but I thank God that He has put it in your heart to graciously give your resources, not only for spreading the Gospel, but also for the spiritual nurturing of His people.

As missionaries in Eastern Europe, there have been tough moments in our lives. We are a family of five, but the support which we have received from HeartCry has sustained us and allowed us to continue in the ministry. Through you, God has provided our daily bread and cared for our three precious children. You were also there for us when my wife needed help with her problems. When I became ill and the doctors said I needed medication, you made it possible for me to obtain the necessary medicine. I was feeling like a wreck and was afraid that I would not be able to support my family. Yet through you, God had mercy on me and my family. May the Lord especially bless brother Sorin Prodan who was a real brother and friend in these moments of trial. All of you have been more than a mission organization. You have been our friends in the Lord!

From the financial support that you send us we are even able to send some support to other missionaries - even as far away as China. When we receive our monthly support, we bow our hearts and heads to thank God for moving in the hearts of those of you who give so that we might live and minister.

We also praise God that you have answered promptly each time we have asked for financial support for a specific project. Through your giving, you were involved in every evangelistic event where students repented of their sins and trusted Christ. I have countless testimonies of young people throughout Romania who were saved through such projects, and they are now servants of God. Praise Him!

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Pastor Scott Lee and the brothers and sisters from Rockport Baptist Church who are always near us in the ministry through their prayers, support, and yearly visits. May the Lord reward them. They were and are a comfort for us as a family. I am always amazed when I hear that their church is praying for us. Thank you again! Praise the Lord from whom we wait for mercy and guidance in proclaiming His Name...

The Team in Draganesti

The city of Draganesti is located in the Southwest portion of Romania. The team is made up of four missionaries and their families - Raul Costea, Danut Opris, Flurina Cazan, and Alexe



Costea. The team in Draganesti is made up of four missionaries and their families - Flurina Cazan (left front), Raul Costea (right front), Danut Opris (second from right), and Alexe Costea (not pictured). The other men pictured are also HeartCry missionaries.

By God's grace, seven years ago, we received the calling to form a mission team to plant churches in the southern part of Olt County where there was no evangelical testimony. There were even villages without an Orthodox church. The people in the area often say that God has forgotten about them, but we believe that God has called us to tell them that they are not forgotten and that He has sent a team of missionaries to deliver unto them the good news of salvation.

By the Lord's Grace, we planted our first church in Draganesti Olt which became the center of our mission work in the area. Afterward, we planted a church in Corabia and established a missionary that is continuing the work until this day. At the moment, we have many other villages that are in our view.

The support from HeartCry has been very important because it covers a substantial part of our ministry's needs (support for two of our missionaries and mission expenses such as transportation, literature, and various evangelistic events). Even though the churches we have planted are obedient in their tithes and offerings, the needs are far greater than our resources. Because of this, HeartCry's help has been a great blessing. We are thankful to the Lord in the first place, and then to you, the supporters of HeartCry, who opened your hearts to help us.

Please understand that I am trying to be very truthful without flattering you. You are a very important piece in the puzzle that Christ is putting together here in Draganesti. I am convinced that organizations will not be rewarded in heaven, but rather the people who labored in them - those of you who labor and sacrifice with real dedication and prayer for the cause of Christ, the edification of the church, and the salvation of the lost.

It is my hope that one day, hundreds of thousands of people from this place in Romania will come to you and say: "Thank you for praying and for giving from your resources so that we might be saved".

Florin Stan

Brother Stan is the HeartCry director for the country of Romania and is also planting a church in the town of Fieni. He is a faithful brother who works in coordination with Sorin Prodan to advance

the cause of the Gospel in Romania.

Through this letter I would like to express my gratitude because HeartCry has been faithful in all its dealing with me. This has been a true demonstration of the grace of God, and because of this grace, I am able to better serve the Lord. I know so many servants in Romania who are very limited in their ministries because they must give the greater part of their day to working in secular jobs in order to support their families. Therefore, I am grateful to God and to all the HeartCry sponsors that make my support possible. Due to the financial support, we are also able to develop a greater ministry on the local and national level. This thing would have been impossible without you.

I want you to know that you are part of our ministry here in Romania. You have a hand in every evangelistic event and every person who repents. You are standing behind the workers with your prayers and support, and their ministries would be impossible without you. It is an undeniable reality that we live in world that requires money. It is also a reality that ministry requires money. Missionaries need places to sleep, food to eat, transportation around town, Bibles, tracts, a place to meet, etc. Looking back,



My name is Nicolae Vulpe and I am a missionary in Dambovita County. In accordance with the Lord's will and by His grace, I am supported by the HeartCry Missionary Society in collaboration with the Harvest Baptist Church of Texas and others. I am glad to have this opportunity to thank all of you for the help you have given me up to this moment.

In the first place, I thank God that He gave us, not only partners in the ministry, but also friends. The teams that have come from the USA through HeartCry have brought more than good teaching. They have opened themselves up to us as friends and brothers in Christ. The benefits we have received from these wonderful teams is beyond words. The HeartCry conferences have brought us sound theology, and the teachers are always willing to share with us wisdom from their own experiences in the ministry.

I must thank you especially for the financial support that HeartCry has given to the entire ministry in Pucioasa. I am aware that many things would not have been possible if it were not for your help in this area. Even the fact that we now have a meeting place for the church is due to the financial support we received through those who support HeartCry. We have also been able to distribute Bibles to the lost in our community, and to purchase a piece of land for a multifunctional sports field. This will be used to evangelize the young people and teenagers we work within the public school. Because of your help and the hard work of our own church, the project is half completed.

I am also extremely thankful to God for the wonderful relationship we have with Pastor Lance Waldie and the Harvest Baptist Church of Texas. Although we have only known each other for a little while, I will never forget their great heart for the ministry here in Pucioasa. Their collaboration is the expression of true Christian love, and I am convinced that God is the author of our friendship with them.

Thank you again and again! Through our working together, the Lord has united our hearts in serving Him. Your generosity is an example for us. We pray that the Lord will reward you and take care of all your needs.



I realize that much of what we have accomplished would have been impossible apart from the necessary support which you provided. Just this year, we were able to bring together all the teams from Pucioasa, Draganesti Olt, Ramnicu Sarat, and Fieni for a special evangelistic event in which more than 800 people heard the Gospel in a single town. This brought great joy to all of us, but it was only possible through your prayers and support.

Please understand that your faithful prayers and generous giving are not in vain. There have been and continue to be great fruit from our efforts. Thank you for what you have done and may the Lord's grace continue to be upon you.

Nicolae Vulpe

Brother Nicu is the missionary/pastor of the church plant in the city of Pucioasa in Dambovita County, Romania. Over the last few years, God has established the church in Pucioasa with a solid congregation and its own building. Nicu also works in close association with Florin Stan and the church in Fieni.

Ruxi Vandici

Ruxi has been our friend and co-laborer for many years. She labors among the university students in Bucharest, Romania, and is a dedicated discipler of young girls. Ruxi has also been gifted with a keen theological mind and inspires others to seek out the truth from Scripture alone. It is a privilege to work with her in the Lord's harvest.

"You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God. For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many thanksgivings to God. By their approval of this service, they will glorify God because of your submission flowing from your confession of the gospel of Christ, and the generosity of your contribution for them and for all others, while they long for you and pray for you, because of the surpassing grace of God upon you. Thanks be to God for His inexpressible gift." (II Corinthians 9:11-15)

I am very grateful to God for calling me into this ministry among the students of Bucharest! I am also very grateful to the people He has called to support me through their prayers and giving. Because of them, I can give all my time and energy to telling the students about the great God we serve! I would like to thank you, even though I do not know you personally, for your faithfulness to God and your generosity which helps supply my needs.

Above all things, I thank God for these six years of ministry among the students because by His grace, He has revealed to me His greatness, power, and glory! I have witnessed His wonders and mighty works, and can say with Moses and the Israelites: "Who is like you, O Lord, among gods? Who is like you, majestic in holiness, awesome in glorious deeds, and doing wonders?"

I praise my God for the wonderful privilege of seeing Him save students and radically transform their lives. I am reminded of Ema and Felicia, who were threatened by their families when they



professed their faith in Christ. Again and again, I was strengthened by their strong faith and firm decision to follow Jesus no matter how great the cost might be. I think of Alexandra and Bogdan, two medical students who immediately began to share Christ with their friends and families, and stood firm even when their friends and families mocked them. I think of Mihaela, who must constantly endure the unrelenting anger and mockery of her unbelieving father. I praise God for these precious people and for many others. It is such a great privilege to watch them grow in the Lord and tell others about Christ!

Another great privilege is to see how God is building up His people. He is drawing them closer to Him and stirring up their hearts to seek Him and obey Him. Many times the Christian students who come to our group tell us that they have understood the depth of the true Gospel for the first time in their lives. The true Gospel has power, the Word of God has power, and when the Christian students grasp the truths of the Word, they are changed.

I remember how one Christian student shared with me after about one year of discipleship that for the first six months she was very scared that I taught heresies. We were studying about the New Covenant and all the blessing we have in Christ. It was different from everything that she had ever been taught before. Yet, as time passed, I saw the "truth set her free" to walk with God and tell her colleagues about Him.

In all these things, God has shown me that He deserves all the glory because He is wonderful and does mighty works. It is a tremendous grace that He does anything through me! "In Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever. Amen" - Ephesians 3:21.

Stefan Gae



Brother Gae is one of the greatest men that you will probably never hear about. Someone once asked J.I. Packer who he thought might be the greatest preacher alive. Dr. Packer simply responded, "You do not know him!" Like countless men who have lived and died in obscurity, Brother Gae is a tireless worker in the Lord's

field and has wore himself out for the cause of Christ. Through the years of communism and oppression, he was a shining light in the darkness. It is a privilege to know him and an even greater privilege to support him.

Since I have been working as a HeartCry missionary, I have had, and will always have, a feeling of gratitude and thankfulness toward God for the wonderful way that He has taken care of the needs of this ministry. At the same time, I have admired and appreciated the spirit of sacrifice I see among the brothers who coordinate HeartCry's activity. I have always esteemed Brother Paul Washer's zeal for missions and constant effort to help indigenous missions. I also appreciate all his collaborators who pray for me and take care that I receive my necessary support.

Because of you and your support, I have been able to teach and edify other Christians so that they might teach the Scriptures and evangelize children from all over the country of Romania. What I have achieved has been by the grace of God and through your giving:

- * As an elder in "Betania" Church from Sibiu, I have fulfilled all my duties.
- * As a preacher of the Gospel, I have held at least 50 meetings each year throughout the city of Sibiu, the country of Romania, and other European countries.
- * As a leader in the Sunday School Teachers Association and the principal of the Sunday School Teachers College, I have held regional training conferences with the teachers from inside and outside the country. I have written and published four books for Sunday School teachers and three books for both teachers and children. I have made three visits to other parts of Europe (Austria and Germany) in order to train Sunday School teachers.
- * There have been 600 students who have graduated from the Sunday School Teachers College (1990-2006); 2,000 teachers who have participated in our Sunday School training conferences (1999-2007); seven teaching manuals that have been written and printed (2000-2006); hundreds of children and teenagers who have repented and become real Christians. These were also trained and are currently strong members of local churches.

Looking back, I can see the Lord's hand upon us and upon me. This is why I thank Him and I thank you because He used your support in our country. I would especially like to thank Whiteash Baptist Church from Marion, Illinois, USA, for the financial support they have given to me. I especially thank God for Pastor Eddie Null who is now with the Lord, and Brother Jack Boles with whom I keep in touch.

Moise Marin

Brother Moise is the director of all our Gypsy work in Eastern Europe. He is a beloved brother and a tireless worker for the cause of Christ among the Gypsies. He has been a dear friend for years. The country of Romania and especially the Gypsy people are indebted to such a man.



I thank God for the prayers and financial support I have received from the HeartCry Missionary Society. Due to this support, we now have 18 mission points among the Gypsy people of Romania, and we are able to help the missionaries in organizing evangelistic activities throughout the country. I can dare say that we could not have developed so many mission points if it were not for this support from you through HeartCry.

Because of your kindness to this ministry, I have an office where I can work and stay in contact with all our men through the internet and the telephone. Your giving also enables me to travel to mission points and evangelistic events throughout Romania, and encourage the missionaries and pastors who are under my care. Finally, your generosity toward me also enables me to have a place to live and to properly care for my family. Because of all these things, I am thankful to God for you, and I pray that He will take care of all your needs according to His riches in glory.

Marian Vale

Brother Marian is another of our Gypsy missionaries who works alongside Brother Moise Marin as a church planter in the Gypsy village of Frunzanesti, Romania. He also has a literacy school for Gypsy children in the church.

I want to thank the Lord Jesus for making us worthy of serving according to His mighty plan. I would also like to give thanks for the HeartCry Missionary Society and all the wonderful people who work through this organization to spread the Gospel through the world. I thank God for the spiritual support that has been given to us through Brother Paul Washer's book, *The One True God*, and through all the other gifted brothers who come and serve us from the Word of God. I am thankful for all the encouragement I have received from these men. They have explained many things to me that before were very vague and confusing. The books that have been given to me and the other missionaries at the HeartCry con-

ferences are also a real blessing for me, along with the ministries of Brother Sorin Prodan and Moise Marin. They have a great desire to help God's people and to encourage missionaries like me.

Finally, my family and I would like to thank all of you for the prayers and financial support that we received from HeartCry and its sponsors. Because of you, I have a monthly salary that takes care of the needs of my family and ministry. I want to thank you for being punctual in sending the support. I know that you are



making a the great sacrifice on my behalf. Thank you for your faith and prayers for us and all the other missionaries who labor for Jesus' Name.

I promise to do my best to manage my life, family, and the support you give me in a way that will please the Lord. I am praying for God's blessing upon you all - on Brother Paul Washer and his family, the teachers who come for conferences, and all the churches and persons who give for this ministry.

Marius Toma

Brother Marius is another of our Gypsy missionaries who works alongside Brother Moses Marin as a church planter in the Gypsy village of Colentina in Romania. We have hopes of one day starting a Gypsy seminary in this area.

Thinking about the blessings from my life, I realize that God has blessed me enormously through HeartCry. It is a society that is very serious about spreading the Gospel throughout the world. The one thing I most respect about HeartCry is that they never put pressure on me to perform or produce results. They only encourage me to work hard at what I know to be God's will for my life. This has made me to take the work of God very seriously and to dedicate myself to Him. Also I appreciate HeartCry's concern for me. Throughout the years, there have been many times when I was faced with urgent needs for the ministry or my family. The men at HeartCry were always willing to hear me and help me. They never



abandoned me.

I feel like I am part of their family. They even provided a little extra support for my wedding, and when my father was sick, they helped me pay for the hospital. A brother from HeartCry even gave me money when my wife was pregnant so that she and the baby would be properly cared for.

Besides all these particular examples, I am thankful for receiving the monthly support that enables me to pay the rent and meet the needs of my family. Our Gypsy community is very poor, and the churches are small. Because of this, a Gypsy tithe does not go very far. Most of the Romanian churches do not have a missionary vision for reaching the Gypsies, and we would have nothing if it was not for your giving through HeartCry. Through you, the Lord is taking care of me and my family. I am thankful for your help and for your open heart for the Gypsy missionary families. My family's desire and mine is to continue to work with you through His power. Be blessed and may the Lord take care of you as you serve Him!

Anatol Dunas

Brother Anatol is the HeartCry director for the country of Moldova and also works as a pastor and church planter in Cahul City. His work is one of the strongest ministries we have in Eastern Europe. Brother Anatol is a valuable asset for the cause of Christ.

My name is Anatol Dunas, and I am a pastor/church planter in Cahul City, Moldova. I am married to a wonderful woman named Nadia and we have three children: Paul (9 yrs), David (8 yrs), and Florin (3 yrs).

We began the ministry in 1999 without any support for the first year. We barely survived. With six other believers, we began the work of planting a church in the city of Cahul. In the following year, God opened the door for us to be supported by the HeartCry Missionary Society, and it created a radical difference for our family and our ministry. Because of this financial support, all our daily needs are met and we can serve full-time in the ministry. We now

have a growing church with many young people and young families.

Throughout the years, we have used your support for making missionary journeys and planting churches in the many villages around Cahul. In the first two years, we made weekly trips to the village of Badicu in order to strengthen the ministry of the believers who congregate there. Today, we have a missionary in Badicu. His name is Lucian, and he is pastoring fifteen adults and many children.

We are moved to prayer every time we think about those who are supporting us. We always ask ourselves who are these persons and what are they thinking about when they give this money. We always pray that God will reward all of you for your support of the work in Moldova. We would like to meet all of you personally and share with you about how much this financial support matters to us.

Because of your support of my family, we have also decided to personally support another missionary which we have trained and our church has sent out. We have done this because in our culture, when you train someone for the ministry, you must also be concerned about how they will survive when they are sent out. Also because of your support, we are able to practice hospitality to the missionaries and pastors who pass by and stay in our home.

May the Lord reward you for your giving to us! You are always participants with us in the Lord's ministry in Cahul. Rejoice with us because at the beginning we were only six, but now we



have sixty-nine members, plus many others who are in attendance. Be glad because in the last four years, we have had three baptisms each year. Be glad because God has given us a strong ministry team. They are a great blessing for me and for the church we planted - the Emmanuel Baptist Church. My brother Nicu leads the worship and ministers as an evangelist; Gelu leads our young people; Virginia serves through intercessory prayer; and Tania does all our work on the computer.

Finally, we are also grateful to the supporters of the HeartCry

Missionary Society because you are concerned about our training and spiritual growth. Thank you for the conferences, the theological books, and the sound teaching.

Nicolae Dunas

Nicu Dunas is the brother of Anatol. He has a very unusual, but effective ministry that we have been sponsoring for years. Nicu is one of the most recognized Tae Kwon Do instructors in Mol-



dova, but he uses his classes and seminars to share the Gospel. He has more lost people pass through his classes in one month than most pastors have pass through their church in one year. All those who are converted under his ministry are integrated into the Emmanuel Baptist Church, which is pastored by his brother Anatol.

The financial support that you are providing for us every month makes the Gospel spread throughout the southern part of Moldova, especially among the teenagers and young people. We currently have eight groups in six different towns and villages who are learning Tae Kwon Do, but most importantly they are studying the Scriptures with me.

I am using the talent that God has given me in order to share the Gospel with as many people as possible. In my classes, we study the Bible and use Scriptural workbooks so that the students will hear of and understand the supreme sacrifice of the Lord Jesus who died for their redemption. Throughout the years, many students have discovered the real meaning of life through repenting of their sins and receiving the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of them have remained with us and others have moved away, carrying the Gospel with them.

Most of the young people who come to our training programs hear the Gospel for the first time in their lives. Because of your support, more than 110 teenagers in our southern extension classes hear the Gospel and study the Bible before each class. Through this method, I am also able to share the Gospel with their parents. I give the students Bible study homework, and their parents often

help them complete the assignments. When we have competitions, I always call a pastor to preach to all the competitors and their families.

Because of your support, I am not only doing evangelism, but I am also discipling the students through my life and teaching. I desire to raise up leaders to be more than good sportsmen. I want them to be preachers and teachers of the Gospel. Every Saturday, at 7 AM, I meet with all my instructors and teach them how to plan their activities so that the Lord's Word will advance with power through the study of the Bible. I constantly emphasize that the goal of all we do is to reach the students and their parents with the Gospel. I would like for you to pray for these weekly meetings and for all the activities that we have with our students.

We are truly serious about the Gospel. Any person who wants to be an instructor must be a fruitful Christian with a real desire to follow the commands and principles of God's Word and to spread the Word to others. They must have the same passion as the apostle Paul who wanted to spread the Gospel so that everyone might have the opportunity of becoming God's child through Jesus.

I am blessed to be a member of a good Baptist Church where my brother is the pastor. I thank God that He allows me to lead the worship and be a part of our worship team. I play the guitar, and we sing to Him for His glory. Sometimes, I am even asked to preach in our church, and this is a great responsibility and joy for me.

Thank you so much for the support that you send me every month. May the Lord reward you for your sacrifice. Because of you, the Gospel is spreading in the southern part of the Republic of Moldova!

Zoran Milovanovic

Brother Zoran is a church planter/pastor in the country of Serbia. The work there is slow and very difficult, but God has blessed, and there is now a sound growing church in the city of Kovin. All this was made possible through your giving to HeartCry.



Through this letter I would like to thank the Lord and the mission's leadership for the help that you have given me in these past six years since we began to work together. In my country, the Baptist churches can be counted on one hand, and there is a great need of missionaries.

After I finished the Bible School in Timisoara, Romania, God called me to return to my own people and serve them with the Gospel. We had no resources or promise of support, but my wife and I prayed and decided to start this ministry. Without gold or silver, we put the only thing we had into God's service - our lives. As God promised, He glorified Himself and took care of us. In answer to our prayers, we met Brother Sorin Prodan who told us that he had been praying for my country for one year. My collaboration with the HeartCry Missionary Society began on that day.

After a year of serving the Serbians who are living in Romania, I went back to my country. In the city of Kovin, I started to plant a church three years ago. After many years of war, my people need the peace of God. Although they consider themselves Orthodox, most are not religious people. Because of their surroundings, the people are very suspicious and analyze everything. They hide themselves behind the mask of religiosity, but they do not know God. They look at us as a cult, and it is very hard to gain their trust. Even our neighbors are suspicious of us. Sometimes, these things really wear us down, and we become very disappointed. Because of all this, HeartCry has been very important to us in many ways. The fellowship we have with Sorin Prodan (HeartCry's European Director) and the teaching we receive in the conferences have enabled us to continue working against even the most difficult trials.

The church has finally started to grow and become a genuinely united congregation. We have about fifty people who are coming to our services, and we are preparing for our second baptism. This would have been impossible without you.

I also want to thank you for helping us to buy land and begin construction of a meeting place. By God's grace, we now have a place of our own. In the few short years of our existence, our congregation has had to move five times. It is a real encouragement for us to know that we have our own place to worship the Lord and no one can throw us out.

In my country, more churches are closed than they are planted. There have been many years since a new church was opened. This is why you should rejoice. Through your prayers and financial support, you have planted a church in Serbia! We could not have resisted in this battle without your help. I pray that God will reward your love and kindness to us. I do not know many of you who help us, but the Lord knows you and even though we will never meet on this earth, I am convinced that we will meet in Heaven.

Ion Gireada

Brother Ion is the HeartCry director in Ukraine. He also serves as a church planter/pastor in the city of Cernauti. He is the most recognized preacher in all the Romanian communities in Ukraine. He is also the leader of the Ukrainian church planting mission called Nehemiah and is the director of HeartCry's theological training program by extension.



From the very beginning, I would like to praise God for the sponsorship which our ministry has received from the HeartCry Missionary Society. It was a miracle from God when HeartCry came to help us. It was the perfect time to begin to work together. We were without help or encouragement until Sorin Prodan contacted me and we began to work together.

Today, looking back, I cannot give enough praise to the Lord or enough thanks to you for allowing the Holy Spirit to guide you in this wonderful way. I do not cease to pray to God for HeartCry. I also pray for all of you who sacrifice your money so that I can preach the Gospel every day. I recently sat down and discovered that I preach more than three hundred sermons each year. I am able to do this because of your sponsorship. If I did not have your support, I would have to work in construction to earn enough money to live and I could only preach on Sundays.

Since I have been a member of HeartCry, I have been able to organize five to six conferences each year for the pastors and missionaries. We have also averaged two to three baptisms each year in each of the churches we have planted. We can do this only through the Lord's grace and mercy, and the prayers and support we receive from you. I pray that God will reward all your sacrifice. I would like to encourage you with a verse from Hebrews 6:10:

"For God is not unjust so as to forget your work and the love which you have shown toward His name, in having ministered and in still ministering to the saints."

Sandu Deac

Brother Sandu is a church planter/pastor in the village of Basat. This is a very difficult church plant. The congregation faces great opposition from the Orthodox Church. Some have even faced physical persecution.



I came to Ukraine six years ago with my wife and daughter. Now, we have two more children: a boy (Amiel) and a girl (Dorothea). Our purpose for moving to Ukraine from Romania was to plant churches in the many areas that are populated with Romanians. At that time, I was not supported by anyone. We survived through the small and infrequent contributions from some churches and individuals. It was very difficult, and we were not able to be very effective in the ministry.

I began working with HeartCry in 2003 and everything began to change. Since then, we have been spiritually and financially supported and the work has prospered. Without any doubt, this has been a manifestation of the grace that God gives to us. I can say that He is worthy of all the praise.

By the Lord's Grace, thousands of Romanians and Ukrainians have heard the Gospel through us. We also see the fruit of salvation in twenty adults who now attend the church that we planted in the city of Puieni. At the moment, the church has thirty-four members, and we have started two other mission points in the villages of Pasat and Poliana.

The support that you have provided for us has been a real help in realizing all that has been accomplished. I consider it a privilege to serve in the ministry of the Gospel alongside HeartCry. I am thankful to God for you because you share your "bread" with us. I am convinced that a great part of our heavenly rewards will be shared with those of you who have given up so many things so that His Name might be known among the peoples.

James Dhale

News from

ASIA

Brother James is the founder of the Grace Himalayan Mission which partners with the HeartCry Missionary Society to sponsor and train indigenous missionaries in the 10/40 window of Asia.

Church Planting Ministries

Planting new, strong churches is our first priority. There are wide open doors everywhere, as people are very eager to hear the Gospel of salvation. Thus, the problem is not who will hear, but who will go and tell the untold millions. A true follower of Christ, then, should be a mourning Christian, in light of the Lord's statement: "THE HARVEST IS PLENTIFUL BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW."

In the past few months, we have seen the beginning of some new churches in the valley of Imphal. I personally supervise all the field works, and we have witnessed the breakdown of Satan's strongholds in various places. One particular breakdown being on April 15, 2007, when I went to visit a group of Hindu converts at Singjamei - a posh Imphal city colony. In this city, there was a Hindu convert by the name of Tomba Pishum who used to worship both the Hindu god and the god of his forefathers called Sanamahi. The Lord saved him recently, yet he did not really know what to do with the heathen temples and altars in his house. All the neighbors were watching him carefully with the anticipation that something serious was going to happen in his home. They considered him to be cursed by his gods. Though risking a possible backlash from the local people, I personally dismantled the whole heathen infrastructure with Scripture reading and prayer. God also gave our group the courage to sing a particular song for the occasion: JESUS SHALL REIGN. Praise be to God, this man, Tomba Pishum, has dedicated his plot of land where the heathen temples were located in order to build a house of prayer!

The Chinga Makha Village

Chinga Makha Village, in the Imphal Valley, is the second place where a new Baptist church has been established. It exists primarily through God's blessing on a recent evangelistic crusade in which all twelve of our missionaries from Manipur participated. Like Lydia in the book of Acts, a woman named Mrs. Leidang became our first Hindu convert in the area. She is a widow, but there are nine believers who are meeting every Sunday morning in her small house. Grace Himalayan Mission is considering renovating one of the rooms in her house for the worship meetings.

The Keisampat Area

Grace Baptist Church, which was established a year ago, is flourishing, and the believers have a strong desire to proclaim the Gospel of salvation to their neighbors. Vikram is the present leader of the new fellowship and has offered the upper room of his house as the place for Sunday worship. In this area, Grace Himalayan Mission sponsored an open-air Gospel crusade on April 15, 2007. As a result, a few hundred Meitei Hindus and Hindu professed faith in Christ. It was so wonderful to see them lifting up their hands and boldly and joyfully singing praises to God.

Many of our Imphal Valley missionaries have become "fishers of men." They know where the fish are and they use good evangelistic approaches to win lost souls. Under the code name



OPERATION AGAPE, we have launched an intensive evangelistic campaign in Imphal Valley since the beginning of this year (98% of people are either Hindu or animists). Most of the places where we are working are pioneer mission fields where the Gospel of Salvation has never been proclaimed by any church or mission group in such a bold and open way. Reports of new conversions are pouring in every month from different missionaries. Since there is no proper place for baptism in their localities, Trinity Baptist Church has the joy and pleasure of hosting these churches, baptizing their converts, and feeding them.

New Missionary Training

I have also been heavily preoccupied with preparations for training new missionaries. Since this is our first official conference, we have to arrange all the materials for printing and binding. I have typed all my materials by myself since we do not have a full-time support staff in the church. I will be teaching classes on: Bible Survey, Baptist Doctrine (the 1689 London Baptist Confession of Faith), Church Planting and Administration, the Doctrine of Salvation, the Sovereignty of God and Evangelism, and some other crucial doctrinal subjects.

Joseph Kennedy

Brother Joseph is the current director of the Grace Himalayan Mission. He oversees the selection, training, and field work of our missionaries in the 10/40 window.



Pastors Conference at Senapati

Today I reached home from Siliguri and went straight to Senapati for the Pastors Conference. Forty-three pastors from the two Naga tribes, Chakhesang (Nagaland) and Poumai (Manipur), attended the conference. In the evening, I delivered a Gospel message and challenged the pastors on "Taking Heed of Yourself and Your Doctrine" from I Timothy 4:16. I also challenged them about the need for Christian discipleship and their own personal walk with the Lord. The next day, I presented a paper for a class on the "Spiritual Life of a Pastor." It was disheartening to see that many of the pastors do not have assurance of their salvation. I praise God that some of them were blessed through the messages and the class. Since then, I have received several phone calls in which the

men requested that we have a larger conference for more pastors in the future. Please pray for the pastors and their needs.

Mission Lectures at Chil Chil Seminary

Chil Chil Theological Seminary is one of the largest seminaries in the state of Manipur. This is the seminary that Don Currin and Matt Glass visited with me. The students and staff were very blessed through Brother Don's inspiring message. I was recently given the opportunity to present a series of lectures on World Missions for ten days to the graduating class. The time was very fruitful and challenging. I gave lectures on Contemporary Trends and Tensions in World Missions, and on the Missionary Life and Work. God blessed me in a very miraculous way as eight graduating students committed their life to world missions. Four of these graduates (Rana, Mohon, Derei, and Bilong) are joining Grace Himalayan Mission and are now here with us for further training.

Church Renewal Programs

Grace Himalayan Mission is working hard for the renewal and revival of native churches, and to encourage them to take a more active role in missions. We feel very strongly about this. I recently visited the Saranamai Baptist Church for this very purpose. Saranamai is one of the most backward and uncivilized villages in my tribe with thirty percent of the people being animists and the majority of the confessing Christians being Roman Catholic. Needless to say, the presence of Baptist churches is very insignificant. I shared the Gospel with the believers, and we are praying about conducting an open-air crusade for the whole village of 3,000 people in the near future. Afterwards, I also visited the Vakho Baptist Church in the village of Vakho. There are about 1,000 people living in this small village. Most are businessmen and government employees. I shared the Gospel with many of the villagers during the Sunday afternoon service, and afterwards, I had the opportunity to spend time with the church elders. I encouraged them to take an active part in missions. We are praying about conducting a Missions Conference in the area in order to encourage the church to do missions.

A Friend Gone Home

Since childhood, the late Sounii Lohe was one of my closest friends. He was married to one of my cousins, with whom he had one son and one daughter - ages six and four. After three years of suffering from diabetes and tuberculosis, the Lord took him home on May 23, 2007. I praise God that He enabled me to spend very meaningful and fruitful time with him and his family during the last days of his journey. He was a good man (by the standards of other men), but for the longest time, he did not receive Jesus as his Lord and Savior. When he found out that his days were short, he realized his need to prepare himself for eternity. He confessed his sins and received Jesus as his Lord and Savior. Before he breathed his last, he shared with us his desire to serve the Lord as a full-time missions worker if the Lord were to heal him. His favorite song, which he always asked us to sing with him, was "I Have Decided to Follow Jesus." We know for sure that it is the Lord who has cut short his time and has taken him to His presence.

At his funeral, I was privileged to share about the forgiveness of sin and the resurrection of the believer to the whole village. I quoted Jesus' words to the criminal who was at His right hand on the cross at Calvary, "Today you will be with me in paradise." The criminal was a great sinner, but he accepted Christ in the last of his

journey and Jesus took Him to paradise. After a few days, I visited the family with my wife, and we spent a very meaningful time of prayer together. His wife said, “We are so blessed and comforted by your message. We know that he is definitely with the Lord. As my husband promised to serve the Lord before his death, now I and all my children will follow his footsteps. We will serve the Lord in whatever the Lord wants us to do.” Please pray for his wife Abigail and her two children, Kilio and Marine.

Missionary Recruitment and Training

The rest of my time has been spent recruiting new missionaries and preparing for their training. Many applicants have appeared for the written examination, and one third of them were listed for a personal interview. After the personal interview and other necessary procedures, we selected ten missionaries from Manipur. They are now here for training. In this process, we always pray to God and ask His leading and guidance for everything we do. I am responsible for training these men in practical mission work, and Brother James is responsible for teaching them doctrine. We are also using the materials that Matt Glass sent from HeartCry.

M. Lovingson

Brother Lovingson directs a missionary training center in the Senipati district of Manipur. He is involved in the training of tribal Christians in northeast India to reach the mainland Hindus of India.

The Lord is blessing my work and life. During the month of



April, I attended the convocation service of the college where I graduated (Grace Bible College, Harayana). I met many of my old friends, and we shared how God has been using us in our ministries. Many of them asked me to train their converts at our missionary training center in Sanapati. However, because of the shortage of funds and the poor condition of the infrastructure, we are not in a position to meet their needs. On my way home, I visited some of the churches that I planted and saw how the Lord is helping them and how they are growing. Two of our converts are going to Manipur to join the missionary training center there. After their training, they will be sent to mainland India for ministries.

Throughout my trip, I took every opportunity I had to share



The Missionary Training Center which is directed by Brother Lovingson. It may seem meager, but it has been used by God to spread the Gospel throughout the area.



The most recent graduates from Brother Lovingson's Missionary Training Center. Most of these men will suffer many hardships before their work is done.

the Gospel. I would like to share with you one particular experience. There was a lonely and tired man sitting opposite me on the train. He was sick, and there was no one who could take care of him. I approached him and asked him who he was and how I could help him. I was surprised to hear that he was from Manipur and was serving in the Indian army at Jammu and Kashmir. He was coming home for vacation. I made friends with him and asked him if I could pray for his sickness. He gladly answered, “Yes,” and I prayed for him. After that, he felt very relieved and started eating some food. Taking this advantage, I shared with him the Word of God, and he listened to me carefully. He asked many questions about the God I shared with him. I found that the Lord had opened his heart and he told me that he would definitely go and find some churches and friends in his area who can teach him more about Jesus. I am still praying for him.

We are happy to let you know that the Grace Himalayan Mission has bought a pig for our family. We are now feeding it with the leftovers from our missionary students. My wife and I have decided to raise the pig and then sell it before Christmas as a blessing for all of us here at the mission center. Please pray for all of us.

Myanmar Team

The Myanmar team is made up of four tribal workers: Samuel Phairong, Mungthuk, Thanmong, and Mary.



The Lord has been very good and kind to us. Five new converts have been baptized by Pastor Samuel and added to our congregation. The new church building construction is making good progress, yet it has not been completed because of a shortage of funds. Since most of our converts are from poor families, we have found it very difficult to raise money from our church congregation.

One of the greatest joys we have is that the husband of our dear sister Nenenkhai has been converted and desires to be a missionary. In his own words he said:

“I am privileged to hear the Word of God from my wife. She always prayed for me and invited me to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. Though I denied her for a long time, I saw her good life and persistent praying. I started asking myself: “What kind of god is she worshiping?” Then the Lord answered her prayer, and now I have received Jesus as my personal Lord. Now I have peace in my mind and there is great joy and happiness in my life. Our relationship as husband and wife has also completely changed. We have started living a new life. Now I want to serve the Lord and let others know who He is. Please pray for me.”

He was baptized by Pastor Thanmong and is now actively working with our missionaries. He wants to be trained and to eventually join our mission as a full time missionary. Please pray for him.

Mary is teaching Buddhists children regularly about the Word of God. Samuel will be staying in Myanmar for a longer time to oversee the work and find ways to expand the ministry. At the present, we have covered fourteen villages, but are praying to extend our target area up to Mandalay. The current situation, at the border between Myanmar and Manipur (India), is very tense. Two major underground groups, Meitei Hindus and tribal Kukis, are fighting each other for the control of Moreh - a town that is a very strategic commercial center for both India and Myanmar. Please pray that the situation will improve. Because of this situation, our missionaries could not come to Manipur for the training conference.

Ritesh Rana

Brother Ritesh is currently working among the Nepalese in Manipur. In the future, he hopes to go to Siliguri in West Bengal, India.

I praise God for enabling me to complete my theological studies at Chil Chil Theological Seminary. Two years ago, when I came back from Pokhara, I was disappointed that the Lord had brought me back to Manipur. However, now I know the reason why. It was to study the Scriptures for two years at Chil Chil Theological Seminary. It has been a real blessing to me. Even though I was a Christian and had a year of training, my knowledge of the Scriptures was very inadequate for my ministry. Now, my knowledge has been enriched. The more I learn about God’s Word, the more I love Him, and the greater my vision has become for His ministry.

After my graduation, I joined a Gospel team that visited five churches in the western part of Manipur, and I preached in two of



Brother Ritesh Rana on the far left with a few of the Christian converts in the area

the churches. I was also privileged to be the Director of a Youth Bible Camp at my local church. I praise God that a few campers made professions of faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and Lord. Furthermore, I am conducting a regular Bible study and prayer meeting at my house. Five families are attending consistently.

The fellowship at Dwarika is going smoothly even though there has been no addition from the Nepalis. However, many students from neighboring villages are joining our worship services. We pray and hope that the Lord will make this fellowship grow. There is a school in this locality run by a Nepali, with whom we are keeping a very cordial relationship. If it is God’s will, we want to help the school and reach the students with the Gospel. Please pray that the Lord will show me His will regarding where to work for Him after the orientation.

Halathor Mili

Brother Mili is working in the Village of Jamjing in Northeast Assam, India. He has already planted one church in 2006 and is now reaching out to the surrounding villages.

The result of the visit from the HeartCry Missionary Society was tremendous. They broke history as the first Western missionaries to come into our area. For many of our people, it was the first



time in their life to see an American. There was a time when people thought that Christianity was a religion for the poor and uneducated. Now, their mind-set has been totally changed. People have started looking at me differently, and I am able to share the Gospel more effectively. Forty-six sick people were given treatment during the medical camp conducted by Dr. Nathan Berry. Three of these came and reported that they were healed through prayer and treatment. Even though they have not become Christians, they gave good witness to the people that the God of Christianity healed them.

The last two months can be regarded as the most fruitful period of my life in the ministry. I have been able to share the Gospel to about 300 people (150 men, 100 women, and 50 children). Several men and women have professed faith in Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior, and all of them have been baptized. Their names are: Sotiram Pegu, Mina Pegu, Pores Pegu, Niru Pegu, Amang Pegu, Gunbati Pegu, Jushi Pegu, Tina Pegu, Lokikant Doley, Juli Doley, Joma Doley, Durogeswor Pegu, and Bojanti Pegu. Please pray for them so that they may be strong in their faith. There is the great and urgent need for discipleship training for them. We need more workers to help us and the mission work in this area. We praise God that Grace Himalayan Mission is praying about sending another missionary to this mission field. His name is Dharmen Kutum, and he is now being trained at Trinity Baptist Church. If he comes, we will be able to cover more area.

Also, please pray for our church and its continued growth. We are thankful to the Grace Himalayan Mission for the special gift that enabled us to buy five new benches.

Mika Yinyo

Brother Mika is seeking to plant a church in the village of Tawang, which is located in Arunachal Pradesh, India.

I was sick for three weeks in the month of April. I had a high fever which lasted longer because of the cold weather. As a result of my sickness, I have not been able to do as much as I planned. As usual, I am trying to make friends with the local people through various ways. I praise God that this month I have been able to establish a very good friendship with one of the youth leaders in the town. After many attempts, I have earned his full confidence, and I was able to share the Gospel with him for the first time. His name is Toshi Sang, and he is a Monpa Buddhist. First, I showed



my respect to him as an elder brother and leader among the youth in the town. I was then allowed to visit his house where I told him that I respect him and love him very much. After a long conversation about his life, family, and works, I asked him what he thought about his soul. He answered that his soul would reincarnate into another living being, maybe a fly or bird, depending on his life here and now. I shared with him what I believed about my soul, saying that I have a high hope for eternal rest after I die. He showed interest in my belief and asked me some more questions. I shared with him from John 14:6 and John 3:16. He was excited to hear for the first time in his life that a God, whom he never knew, would love him. He asked me about the book where he could find such promises. The next day, I gave him a Hindi Bible, which he is now reading. Please pray that the Lord will open his heart to see His love through reading the Bible.

There is also a family that I am visiting regularly, and they are showing an interest in my religion. I have not yet shared the Gospel with them directly, but please pray that the Lord will open the door. Another friend that I am praying for is Toshi Tsering. We have become friends, and I am sharing the Gospel with him. My first words to him were, "God loves you."

Please continue to pray for my ministry. It is very difficult to evangelize the people. Nevertheless, our God is great, and I pray that He will use me in His own way and for His glory



The Forgotten Brainerd

John Brainerd Missionary
to North American Indians,
1747-1781

The Early Years

David Brainerd's life and legacy have become a special part of Christian history for Christians worldwide. We were reminded of this in our last issue of this magazine by considering his mission work among the North American Indians. But one quickly forgets that David's entire ministry lasted only three years before his death at the age of twenty-nine. He is well-remembered and rightly so, since his pioneering mission work became a catalyst for missions and gospel zeal in the future. But one wonders how is it that so little is remembered about his brother, John. Especially in light of the amazing fact that John replaced David as a mission-

ary among the Indians shortly before David's death, and that he remained there for the next thirty-four years, exhibiting the same kind of sacrifice, commitment, and zeal that his older brother had shown. How can we not remember John Brainerd as well?

The Brainerd brothers were born to Mr. and Mrs. Hezekiah Brainerd, a family with a godly heritage and strong Puritan convictions. Nine children were born to Hezekiah and his wife, Dorothy, with David and John being the sixth and seventh children. However, when the boys were still young, the family's stability was cut short by the death of their mother, and five years later, the death of their father. Since David was fourteen and John twelve, their care and education were left with their older five siblings, several of which were already married.

David and John lived with their married siblings the next few years until their enrollment in Yale. John entered Yale in 1742 during David's junior year. The same year that David was somewhat unjustly expelled from the school. David, though not without fault, was made the target of overly severe administrative discipline from the school officials. The matter concerned David's critical comment of a professor made in private conversation that was overheard by a student. The entire event was blown out of proportion, especially in light of David's full confession of guilt and a private apology. When the school officials demanded a public apology for the private infraction, David felt it too severe and would not submit to that. Those in authority would not lessen their position and thus David was expelled in his junior year. John Wesley would later ask the following question regarding those who carried out the severe discipline against Brainerd: "Are these people even Christians at all?"

This grievous event not only greatly affected the Brainerd family, but also caused deep sadness and embarrassment for young John, yet in his first year at Yale. Though forced to remain at Yale without his older brother's presence and guidance, he graduated in 1746 at the age of twenty-six. In all this, God's providence was overruling man's sinful limitations in order to bring about a greater good for Christ's kingdom.

There is ample evidence that David and John were very close and shared genuine fellowship in the things of God. Several letters particularly reveal the nature of their relationship. One such letter was written in April of 1743, from David to John:

I should tell you that I long to see you, but my own experience has taught me that there is no happiness and satisfaction to be enjoyed in earthly friends or any other enjoyment that is not God Himself. Therefore, if the God of all grace is pleased graciously to afford each of us His presence and grace, that we may perform the work He calls us to do until we arrive at our journey's end, then the local distance at which we are held from one another at present is of no great importance to either of us. Alas! The presence of God is what I want and need. For my part, I feel the most vile of any creature living. All you can do for me is pray incessantly that God would make me humble, holy, resigned, and heavenly-minded by my trials. Be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. Let us run, wrestle and fight, that we may win the prize and obtain that complete happiness of being holy, as God

is holy. So wishing and praying that you may advance in learning and grace, and be made fit for special service for God- I remain,

Your affectionate brother, David Brainerd
INDIAN MISSIONS

Missions in New England

Early successful labors among the North American Indians had brought about the formation of various Christian organizations known as societies, which did quality and courageous work in North American missions. One such society was formed in Edinburgh, Scotland, called "The Society for Propagating Christian Knowledge." It was this organization that sent John Sergeant from Yale College to Stockbridge, Massachusetts, then called "a howling wilderness," where he labored for fifteen years until his death in 1749.

When Sergeant arrived in Stockbridge, he found fifty Indians who apparently had little or no cooperation with white men. Upon his death fifteen years later, there were no less than 218 Indians in the village, with good dwellings, developed farms, a church of forty-two members, and a school with one hundred students. It was to Stockbridge that Jonathan Edwards would go after Sergeant's death, and Edwards dismissal as pastor from his church in Northampton.

It was this same Scottish society that commissioned David Brainerd to begin a mission among the Indians at Nassau Township, New York, in 1743. Thus began the brief and legendary work of the famous older Brainerd brother. In light of the great work that God did among the Indians under David's preaching, it is easy to forget that his entire ministry lasted only three years. Yet in those three years of lonely and difficult gospel labor, David Brainerd sowed in tears and reaped in joy. He witnessed one of the purest outpourings of the Holy Spirit since the Day of Pentecost.

John Replaces David

David Brainerd battled with his health from his late teen years until the end of his life. By the summer of 1746, and at the age of twenty-seven, he began to realize that he might not be long for this world. He was suffering from tuberculosis. Soon his thoughts began to turn toward the possibility of his brother John succeeding him in his work among the Indians. The next year in April of 1747, David had strength enough to travel to Newark, New Jersey, where the Presbytery of New York was meeting for its annual business. He spent part of April 9 in the Presbyterian session meetings, then went in the afternoon to Elizabethtown to see his brother John. From David's diary record, it is clear what occurred over the next two or three days between the two brothers.

April 10-found my brother John there and spent time in conversation with him. April 11-assisted in examining my brother for [ministerial] licensure by the New York Presbytery. April 14-this day my brother went to my people.

Thomas Brainerd, John's biographer, gives some further insight as to how to interpret this brief entry in David's diary:

We doubt whether an interview stirring such thoughts and involving such heart yearnings, ever had a record more brief. Its brevity is suggestive. To these two brothers, duty was everything and their own lives personally were nothing. They met as soldiers on the battlefield. One [David] who had fought in the front rank bravely was now fallen wounded and would return home to die. The other [John], still fresh, strong and hopeful, stood ready to take his dying brother's sword and fight in the same conflict, as God should ordain.

The words and prayers that were shared between them in those few days together would have been very moving to hear. Both of them realized that once John rode off to the Indians, it could likely be the last time they would ever see each other upon earth. The following is an excerpt from David's final letter to John:

Dear brother, I am now just on the verge of eternity, expecting very speedily to appear in the unseen world. I feel myself no more an inhabitant of earth, and sometimes earnestly long to depart and be with Christ. I bless God that He has for some years given me an abiding conviction that it is impossible for any rational creature to enjoy true happiness without being entirely devoted to Him. Under the influence of this conviction, I have in some measure acted and lived. O, that I had done so more! I saw both the excellency and necessity of holiness of life, but never in such a manner as now, when I am just brought to the sides of the grave. . . . yet, blessed be God, I find I have really had, for the most part, such a concern for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom in the world, that it is a satisfaction to me to reflect upon these years. And now, my dear brother, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace . . . may you enjoy the Divine Presence both in private and in public and may the arms of your hands be made strong by the right hand of the mighty God of Jacob. These are the passionate desires and prayers of Your affectionate and dying brother, David Brainerd.

John journeyed alone on horseback toward Albany County, New York. He was twenty-seven years old, had no prior experience as a missionary or as a pastor, and was ignorant of the Indian language. According to human judgment, he was an unlikely candidate for the difficult work ahead of him, but God's ways are not man's ways. God was sending the young Brainerd to continue the heavenly work his brother had begun. At least a day's ride to Kaunawmeek, in Albany County, New York, brought John to the small cabin which David had built with the help of the Indians. In light of who he was, the Indians gave John a warm and joyful welcome. As his biographer writes, "with open arms" they welcomed

him as their new spiritual under-shepherd.

The welcome was real, but John was faced with the reality of leaving all his friends, the intellectual setting of Yale and New England, and all the civilized benefits he had ever known. He was living in a wilderness cabin with only Indians around him. This must have required all the faith and courage he could muster. It must be remembered that only twenty-four months had passed since the elder brother David had found the Indians running wild in drunkenness and darkness. Yet, they had been transformed by a

power not of this world in a genuine outpouring of the Spirit of God. They were humble, teachable, and earnest Christians. In the previous two years, they had received serious and solid preaching, and their progress in Christian growth proved to be genuine. Mr. McKnight, a minister in New York, made this simple remark about the Indian converts: "They put to shame their white brethren in other churches."

It was this group that John had come to live among, but he did not know the language and was yet inexperienced in their culture. David's recently published journal, which John would have just obtained, reveals the difficult circumstances John would have to face:

I have often been obliged to preach in their houses in cold and windy weather, full of smoke, as well as being unspeakably filthy, which has thrown me many times in violent headaches . . . while I have been

preaching, their children cry to such a degree that I could scarcely be heard and their mothers would take no care to quieten them; at the same time, some men would be laughing during the sermon or mocking divine truths, with others playing with their dogs, all this, not out of spite or prejudice, but for lack of better manners.

John began his labors on or near April 15, 1747. By the time he arrived, the revival which had occurred within the previous year had begun to gradually decrease, but was certainly not extinguished. This testimony actually proves the original purity and power of the work of the Holy Spirit from two years earlier. The Indians were now living out their Christian lives, which had begun with their clear conversion during a time of God-sent revival. Now, two years later, John could say that "the work of divine grace still went on among the Indians."

Of his first labors from April until September, few details are available. He seems to have entered into the work in the same pattern and heart which David had exhibited. Nevertheless, in July, John received news of his brother's growing weakness. He left Bethel (the new name of the Indian settlement) to be at David's side in the home of Jonathan and Sarah Edwards in Northampton, Massachusetts. John stayed only a week and then returned to his work, but by October, he had a strong desire to see David again, and made another trip to Northampton. He arrived on October 7, a few days before his brother's death on October 19. After the funeral, John returned to Bethel and his Indian flock. Before David's



death, there had been some hope for his recovery, but now, John was returning as the permanent pastor among David's beloved Indians. What he must have felt in that return journey God only knows. But God was with him and that would prove to be sufficient.

Five months after David's death, Jonathan Edwards wrote a letter to Mr. James Robe in Scotland, regarding the Brainerds' work among the Indians:

We have had accounts from time to time of religion being in a flourishing state in the Indian congregation of New Jersey, under the care of Mr. John Brainerd; of the congregation's increasing by the access of Indians from distant places; of a work of awakening being carried on among the unconverted, and of additions made to the number of the hopefully converted. Mr. Brainerd was at my house a little while ago, and represented this to be the present state of things in that congregation.

After two years of ministry among the Indians, John had proved, by God's grace, the certainty and reality of his own calling. He went about his work with what his biographer calls "eminent success". Though his older brother was a difficult man to follow, John proved himself to be his equal in fidelity and faithfulness. One later biographer records:

Mr. John Brainerd traveled to the Forks of Delaware and to Wyoming several times, to induce the Indians to leave their unsettled life and dwell near him. Numbers came, from time to time, but he succeeded in doing little more than civilizing them. In 1751 he had some special success, and in October, 1752, he had forty families near him, and thirty-seven communicants. There were fifty children in the school. In the same year, with only one attendant, he spent a fortnight on the Susquehanna. Their horses were stolen, the guide was too lame to go on foot, and they remained three days where there was no house. That year, also, the General Court of Connecticut, on the petition of the Correspondents, granted a brief for a general collection to aid him in his school.

In commenting about his own work among the Indians, John Brainerd wrote the following:

As to the success that has attended my labors, I can say but little. It is a time wherein the influences of the Divine Spirit are mournfully withheld. I think, however, I have ground to hope that some good has been done among both Indians and white people, and the prospects of further usefulness are very considerable, if proper means could be used.

When John reached his forty-ninth year of age, David had been dead twenty-two years. After so many years of hard labor, John was himself now facing increasing health problems. He was going out less and less on extended mission travels among the Indians, and he began to establish preaching points among the scattered white people. Yet, even in ill health, he preached more than 500 sermons in the following ten years.

In the latter half of his life, John preached the Gospel with

zeal and self-denial over a vast neglected area of New Jersey. The astounding fact is that he established at least seven white churches in addition to his full-time labors among the Indian tribes. Seven other places were also regularly and frequently visited by him. At the age of thirty-four, he had been elected a trustee of the College of Princeton and served faithfully in this capacity for twenty-six years until the end of his life. In his final years, he was zealous, faithful, and unceasing in his preaching of the Gospel of God's grace. He battled through personal discouragements, spiritual depression, and regular physical infirmities. Nevertheless, he remained faithful to the end. He gave himself to the Indians for the sake of the Gospel for more than thirty years.

John's Death and Legacy

John Brainerd would have died among the Indians he loved if war had not broken out. A British army captured the area and caused him to be removed to Deerfield, Connecticut. He preached there until his death, though he was never officially installed as their pastor. The people loved him to such a degree that they buried him under their meeting place with a marble slab bearing the words: "Beneath here moldereth the dust of the Rev. John Brainerd-died March, 1781." He was sixty-one years old. His will began with these words:

I, John Brainerd, minister of the gospel of Christ, at present laboring under some bodily indisposition, but through the grace of God, blest with the fullest use of reason, think it my indispensable duty to Christ and my family, to signify my will in writing. First of all, I give and recommend my soul into the hands of God in and through Jesus Christ, firmly relying on His name, merits and righteousness for pardon, justification, and eternal life.

It is not surprising that different sources would later compare the Brainerd brothers. Dr. Field, who was the minister of the congregation in which the Brainerds' parents resided, was to say of John, "The tradition in Haddam is that he was as pious a man as his brother David, but not equal to him in ability." There is no evidence that the Indian believers made any comparison between the two men. Certainly in both men there was biblical orthodoxy, humility, spiritual passion, self-denial, and prayerfulness.

The heritage that David and John left behind did not end with their deaths. In the history of Haddam, Connecticut, their birthplace and first home, it is recorded that the following Brainerds became Gospel ministers: David, John, Elijah, Eleazar, Chilliab, Nehemiah, Israel, Israel II, James, and David S. Brainerd. (quoted in the *Contributions to Ecclesiastical History of Connecticut*, New Haven: 1861).

We will close with a quote from Thomas Brainerd about John. It is the best commendation that a man can receive:

He was a lover of all good men and seems to have hated nothing but sin; he was a holy man of God, to which his whole life bore witness.

Two brothers- John and David. Of whom the world was not worthy. May God raise up such brothers once again in our day, who live not for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again to give life to the peoples of all nations.



THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY



OUR CHURCH

The HeartCry Missionary Society is not a *para-church* organization; rather, we are a ministry under the authority and supervision of a local New Testament church and its elders. We call ourselves a society simply because the word denotes a proper association of people with similar interests, purposes, or passions. Those of our church and those who faithfully support this ministry have one abiding purpose: That God's Name be great among the nations through the redemption of men and the building up of Christ's bride.

Our church is the First Baptist Church of Muscle Shoals (1915 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL, 35661). It is a Southern Baptist Church concerned with the restoration of the true Gospel and the biblical principles that ought to govern the local church. The elders serving at First Baptist Muscle Shoals are Phil Baggett, Andy Bolding, Steve Bradley, Donnie Dulaney, Jim Fowler, Alvin Lynch, Bill Newman, Jeff Noblit, Michael Statom, and David Wigginton.

OUR STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The chief end of all mission work is the Glory of God. Our greatest concern is that His Name be great among the nations, from the rising to the setting of the sun (Malachi 1:11), and that the Lamb who was slain might receive the full reward for His sufferings (Revelation 7:9-10). We find our great purpose and motivation not in man or his needs, but in God, His commitment to His own glory, and our God-given desire to see Him worshipped in every nation, tribe, people, and language. We find our great confidence not in the Church's ability to fulfill the Great Commission, but in God's unlimited and unhindered power to accomplish all He has decreed.

WHAT WE DO

Although we recognize the great importance of sending missionaries from the West to unevangelized peoples throughout the world, we believe that we are led of the Lord to support indigenous or native missionaries so that they might evangelize their own peoples. We work with godly men and women of integrity and faith in the unreached world to help them evangelize and plant churches among their own peoples. Our primary ministries are:

Church Planting: This is our primary ministry. Nothing can do more to advance the Kingdom and nothing is more difficult than planting biblical churches throughout the world. We also support works on university campuses in Eastern Europe, but always in connection with the local church.

Bible Conferences: Missions is not about sending missionaries, but about sending truth through missionaries. One of the greatest needs on the contemporary mission field is theological training and instruction in expository preaching. Our Bible conferences focus mainly upon the true Gospel, expository preaching, true conversion and assurance, and the biblical church.

Literature Distribution: One of the great needs among indigenous missionaries and pastors is solid Christian literature. Besides the basic study tools, it is our desire to provide works from such sources as the Puritans, the preachers of the Great Awakening, Spurgeon, D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones, etc.

Ministry Tools: With prayer and discretion, we provide any number of resources necessary for the indigenous missionary to advance the work: boats, cars, pack mules, generators, computers, construction, etc.



THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY



FREE MAGAZINE

The HeartCry Missionary Society publishes a quarterly magazine free of charge to all who request it. The primary purpose of our magazine is to share something of the great work that God is doing in the world through indigenous missions. In our publication, we share more than mission statistics, but provide personal testimonies and reports from the field that let the reader see something of the heart of the missionaries and the struggles they endure for the sake of the Name. We do all this with the goal of encouraging believers in the West to turn away from the vanities of this world, follow hard after Christ, and give themselves to the fulfillment of the Great Commission in the world. Remember: We are called to either go down in the well, or hold the rope for those who go down!

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

You can find out all about the HeartCry Missionary Society on the worldwide web at: www.heartcrymissionary.com. Our web site is designed to communicate our mission statement, history, a description of our ministry and methodology, a statement of our theology, and our essential convictions about the Gospel and Missions. It also includes news and event updates, an archive of past issues of the HeartCry Magazine, and downloads of sermons from Paul Washer and other preachers. Finally, there is also a page that enables you to communicate your thoughts to us and even donate online. If you have enjoyed our HeartCry magazine, we are sure that you will be blessed by our web site.



COME OVER... AND HELP US

The harvest is truly plentiful and the laborers are few. At this moment, there are countless works throughout the world that could be expanded if only Christians would turn from the vanities of this world and give themselves to the will of God in making the Gospel known to every man, woman, and child under heaven. The Great Commission can be divided into two distinct, but interrelated ministries. You are either called to go down into the well (i.e., go as a missionary) or hold the rope for those who go down (i.e., support missionaries). Either way, there will be scars on your hands. Those who do not go are called to support those who do with the same dedication and sacrifice. Where are your scars? What has it cost you to fulfill the Great Commission?

ACTS 16:9

As a Christian, you have been called to participate fully and sacrificially in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20) in either going to the unreached or supporting those who go. However, it may not be God's will for you to do so through this ministry. Please seek the Lord in prayer and in the study of the Scriptures before sending financial support. Please do not send financial support to this ministry if you are not being faithful in giving to your local church.





THE HEARTCRY MISSIONARY SOCIETY

HOW TO GIVE

There are many needs on the mission field and many ways to give to the HeartCry Missionary Society. If you are first faithful in giving to your own local congregation, and if the Lord is leading you to join with us, we would ask you to prayerfully consider giving your gift to one of the following possibilities:

* General Fund:

This is the backbone of HeartCry. It provides for the support of the indigenous missionaries, the U.S. staff, and the general operational expenses of our mission.

* Pastoral Library Fund:

This fund is used to provide basic theological libraries to indigenous missionaries. The libraries usually include a Study Bible, concordance, Bible dictionary, Systematic Theology, and one volume commentary.

* Special Needs:

For many years, supporters of this ministry have asked us to make known to them any special needs that might arise on the mission field. In order to avoid any possibility of prodding or manipulating our fellow believers, we have been very reluctant in the past to share these needs, even when asked. Through much prayer, and the wise counsel of our board and longtime supporters, we have decided to share, with great discretion, certain valid needs that are communicated to us from the mission field. In the near future, these needs will be presented on our web page www.heartcrymissionary.com under the menu title: "Opportunities for Giving".

WHERE TO GIVE

All checks should be made payable to the HeartCry Missionary Society and sent to The HeartCry Missionary Society, 1915 Avalon Avenue, Muscle Shoals, AL 35661. Giving is also possible on our web site:

www.heartcrymissionary.com.

All donations are tax deductible.

CONTACT US

We would count it a privilege to hear from you and answer any questions you might have regarding our ministry. Please do not hesitate to contact us by any of the following means:

ADDRESS:

HeartCry Missionary Society
1915 Avalon Avenue
Muscle Shoals, AL 35661

TELEPHONE: (256) 381-7510

WEB SITE: www.heartcrymissionary.com

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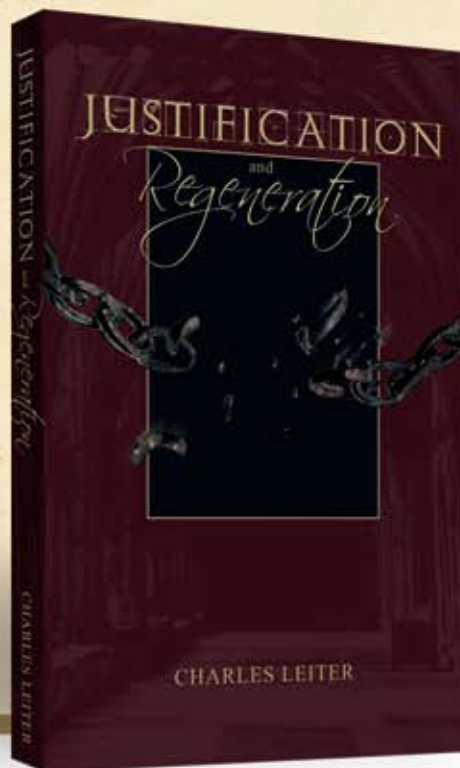
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